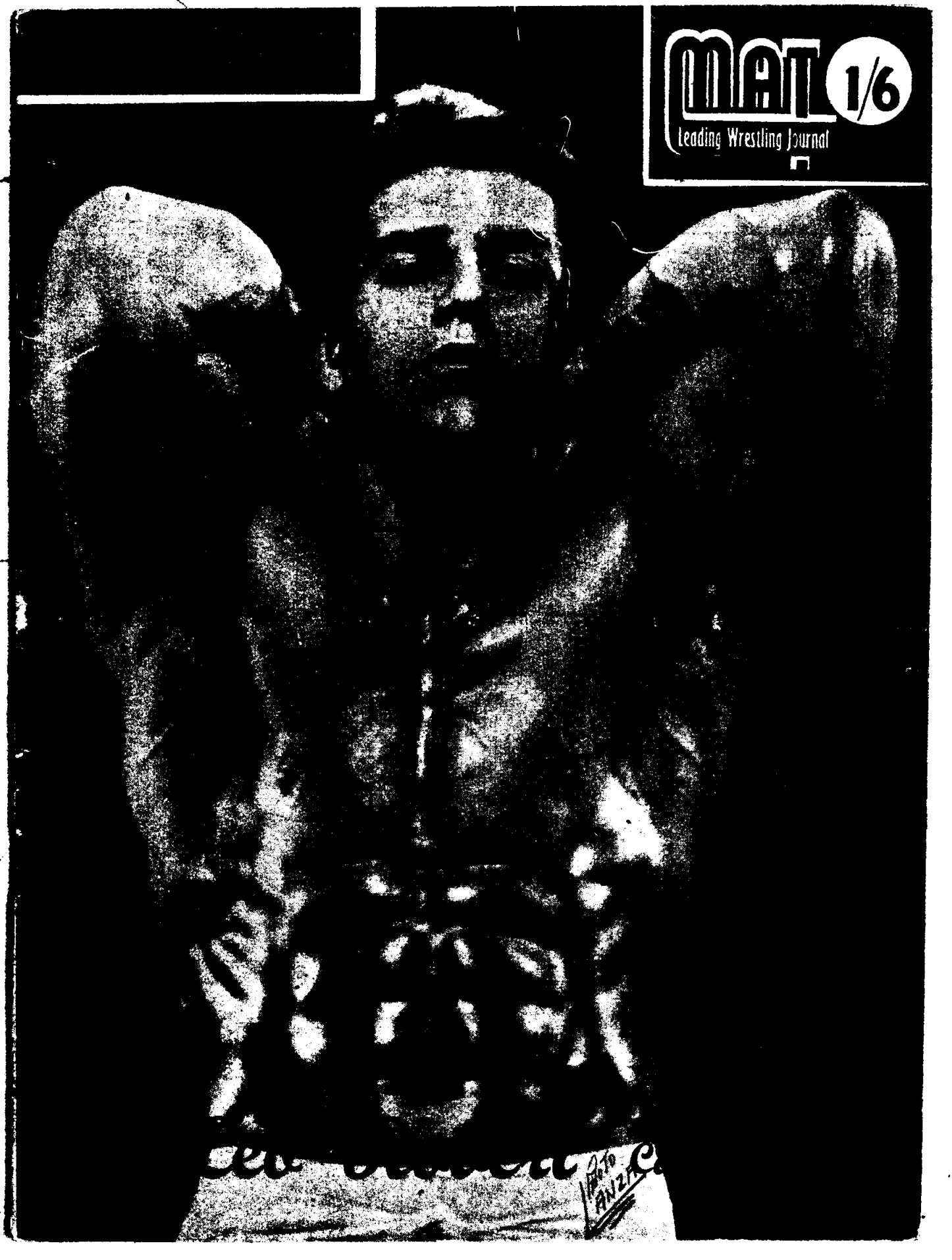
MAT 1/6
Leading Wrestling Journal



The World's Leading MAT Wrestling Journal

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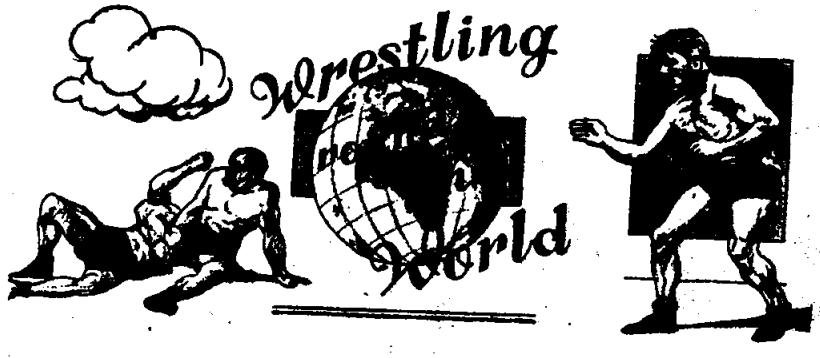

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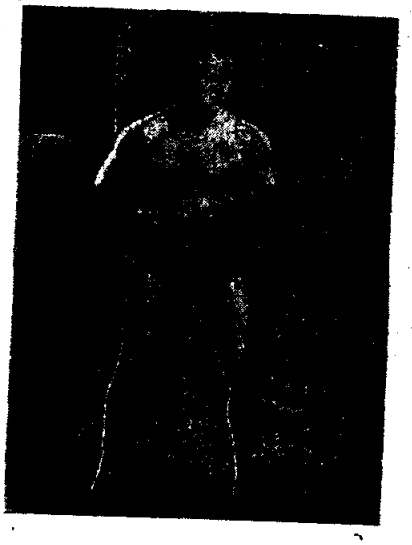

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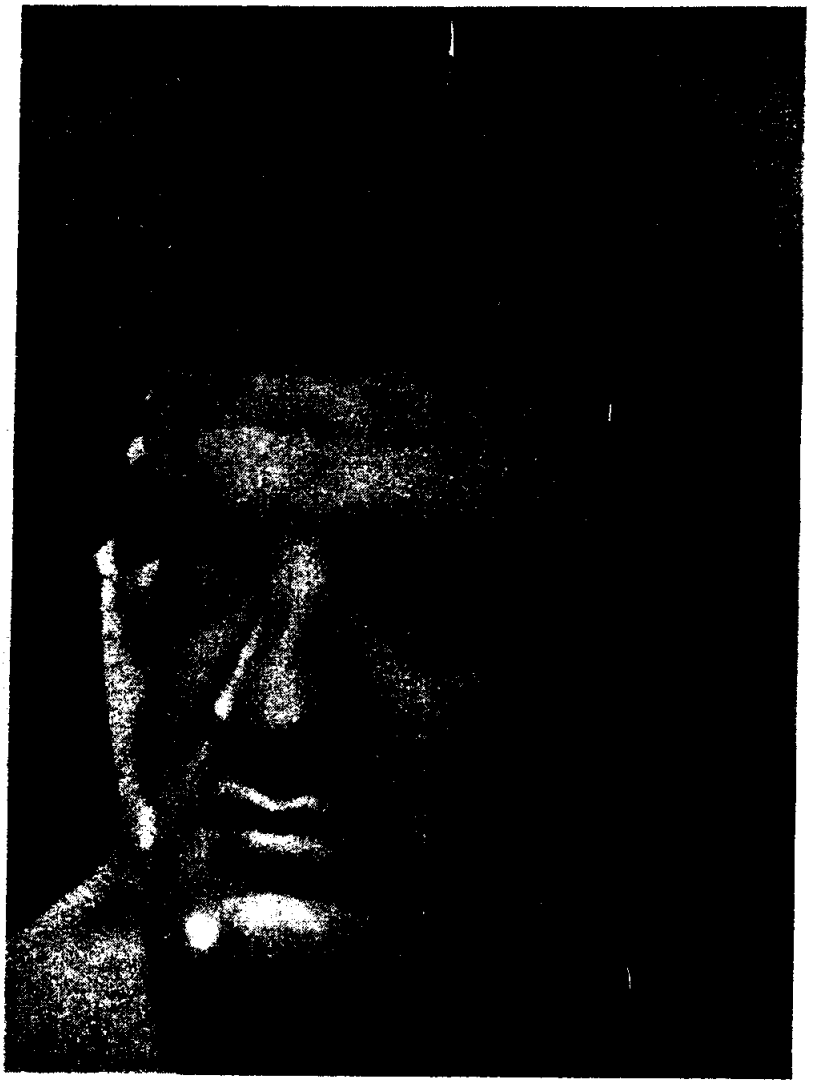


Hard and merciless, PYE belongs to a school of wrestling that believed in victory every time a man stepped into the ring. Victory 'at any price' that is!! It was a tough career when he started out along the road to fame, and many of his bouts will be talked about for years and years to come.

Jack Pye

by

RUPERT RICE.

MY introduction to Jack Pye, one of the greatest draws in British wrestling to-day, was effected through the kind offices of Billy Best, the Liverpool promoter. It is extremely difficult to approach this rugged giant, who shys away at the thought of an interview. It was only when it came to light during brief snatches of conversation that we had both been in the National Fire Service during the war—and incidentally I had served with a number of his acquaintances and friends—that our interview took on a different tone and this famous wrestler really opened out.

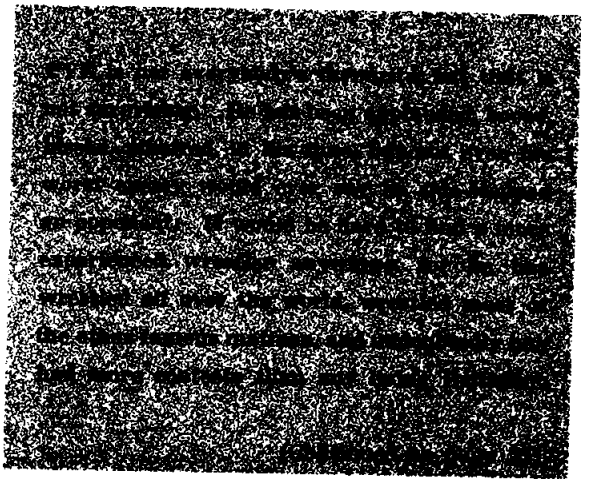
Very modest outside the ring, speaking with a Northern accent, Pye told me some of the highlights of his career, his working life and his family. The Pyes, there were once eight of them, share one grand British tradition. Through thick and thin, weal or woe, the family have always held together and helped each other. "You know Rupert," said this tough grappler, "we were miners, some of us are miners yet, and in those days before the war, life was far from easy, work was hard, money was poor, and the dangers of occupation, well you know what a miner's life is. We had a rough time, it was a rough job, we took up professional wrestling because we needed the extra money badly, and if we are rough in the ring, don't forget we never had it easy ourselves. We learned not to squeal when things were hard up against us, but to give back as good as we got."

" Remember Bully, the original Pye?" asked Jack. " He died in a Sheffield hospital with war injuries, no-one noticed his death yet he was a grand fellow. There is Billy too," he said. " He suffered a mining accident and still lies in hospital with a broken back and very little use in either of his arms. Joe, another member of the family is still a miner, he weighs 22 stones, whilst Paul is a Sergeant Major in Egypt. He tops the scale at a light 15 stones." On the wrestling side besides Jack, there is Harry, Dominic and Tommy, the last named being the lightest—a mere stripling of 14½ stones.

One can sense rather than feel, that Jack Pye is proud of the family tradition. Despite their rather rough tactics there is something fine and rather deep rooted in their natural affection for one another. They have vivid recollections of their younger days when they went to school with George Formby and were pals of the Woodcocks.

To-day, one of their staunchest supporters is Mrs. Bessie Braddock, M.P. " Grand woman that," said Jack Pye. " I know some newspapers like to plaster her, because of her political opinions, but get to know her as I do, and realise the wonderful amount of good she has done for the poor, the sick and the needy, and that is when you know the real worth of a person, and Bessie Braddock has never refused to help a deserving case to my knowledge."

Here is a picture of Jack Pye in his younger days. Even at this stage opponents were very wary when they fought him, and as time wore on he became known as the most cunning man in Great Britain.. To-day, every fan in the world knows his name, and are not likely to forget it.



A reply to some recent Berlin sports twaddle!

By 'Mat' Editor, NORMAN F. BERRY.

OBSERVANT wrestling supporters were very annoyed at the face-saving manoeuvres of the Berlin Sports Committee when that august body tried to explain away the disturbances that broke out during the contest in Berlin between the much-heralded "Sugar" Ray Robinson and the German champion. After the American boxer had been disqualified for an alleged "kidney punch' a bunch of rowdies began to show their disapproval by hurling anything they could get hold of into the ring at Robinson. It became so bad, that Robinson had to take refuge under the ring.

Obviously, when this sort of thing happens, somebody has to give an explanation, because such exhibitions do not tend to popularise any sport with the public. So the Berlin Sports Committee got down to the job of 'fixing' the blame. And who do you think they blamed? For sheer bare-faced impudence their excuse really takes some beating, for instead of accepting the blame themselves or placing it with the boxing authorities, or roundly condemning the hooligans who caused the fracas, they came out with the amazing statement that the whole trouble had been caused because the German public had been allowed to witness wrestling contests, and went on to say that wrestling was enough to turn any man of culture sick!!

Well now, far be it from us to offer advice to individuals who cannot analyse a situation better than this, but we cannot allow them to foist their own shortcomings on to our shoulders. We get blamed for quite enough without accepting responsibility for causing disturbances at boxing matches. Thousands of wrestling fans all over Europe can testify to the fact that there are no more peaceable audiences anywhere than wrestling audiences. They shout, they boo, they express disapproval and they leave wrestlers in no doubt as to whether they like them or not, but they do not act in any way that could be termed objectionable. Further, in ordinary life the wrestling fan is a most normal and average fellow, and is not guilty of acting any worse or any better than any other fellow simply because he attends wrestling contests. How many people do you know who go to watch wrestling, and come out and start throwing bottles all over the place? If you know one that's one more than us! For the Berlin Sports Committee to blame wrestling for disturbances at boxing matches is most foolish.

If we were asked to hazard an opinion as to what caused the disturbance that made "Sugar" Ray hop underneath the ring to avoid being hurt, we should conclude something along these lines. When any man is disqualified for alleged foul play it is bound to cause a certain amount of hostility towards him. This does not mean, of course, that the hostility is justified, because even though he is disqualified, it does not necessarily mean that the offending blow or blows were purposely struck. They could have been accidental. But, in spite of this, we can well understand certain sections of any crowd disapproving of foul blows, intentional or otherwise. However, it is one thing to express disapproval, but it is quite another to act like lunatics and behave as the Berlin crowd are reported as having done on that night. They threw bottles and anything they could get hold of at the coloured boxer. Now, we have to ask ourselves, what made them go beyond the normal method of protesting at the foul blows?

Well, as the Berlin Sports Committee talked about the effect of wrestling on people of culture, we might just look into this question of culture for a moment and see if this avenue offers any solution to the now famous outburst. If we take a glimpse back a few years, we can easily remember the days when the Germans were told by Herr Hitler that they, of all peoples, were the only peoples fit to rule the world, the only 'true Ayryans'—such twaddle—and that all others were inferior types to themselves. This applied especially to Jews and coloured peoples, who were, according to Nazi philosophy, definitely inferior types. This sort of idea, although it had absolutely no foundation in fact, was taught to all Germans, and though we suspect that the more intelligent ones knew it was ridiculous, there is no doubt that many of the not so intelligent thought it was true.

To us, it seems that here is a possible explanation of the incident we are considering, for we know that ideas that are hammered into peoples heads are not easily removed, even though the individuals that fashioned this philosophy have 'moved on.' And we suggest, that after "Sugar" Ray was disqualified in that eventful bout in Berlin he fell victim to a revival of that pernicious doctrine of racial superiority that has not completely been eradicated from all German minds, or indeed, from many others as well!!

Now that appears to be a more satisfactory solution to a problem. The same problem was considered by the Berlin Sports Committee and they foisted the responsibility on to wrestling. Maybe they found that an easier way out than acknowledging the real causes of the incident. But we feel pretty certain that our verdict is much nearer than theirs.

We would like to point out to that committee, that in Britain, we have coloured wrestlers, some good, some not so good, and we have wrestlers from all corners of the globe, and if any of them infringe the rules then they are disqualified. And rightly so, too! But we are proud to say, that British wrestling patrons, and those in charge of the sport, would never allow such scenes to take place in British wrestling stadiums. We are not supermen or anything like that. We don't mind a joke, and we do not always agree on many points, but we do not, and will not, make such fools of ourselves as to create situations where it is necessary for wrestlers to hide under rings from the wrath of the crowd.

In fact—and here we are doing a little justified bragging—we, the British wrestling fraternity, could teach that Berlin boxing counterpart quite a thing or two about organising and watching sporting events like one expects human beings to do.

Tailpiece.—German boxing authorities have since annulled the disqualification. N.F.

Middlesbro' Amateurs

Active young men living in the Tees-side area up in the North-East, who feel like taking an interest in amateur wrestling, have no need to go far to find just the very club they are looking for.

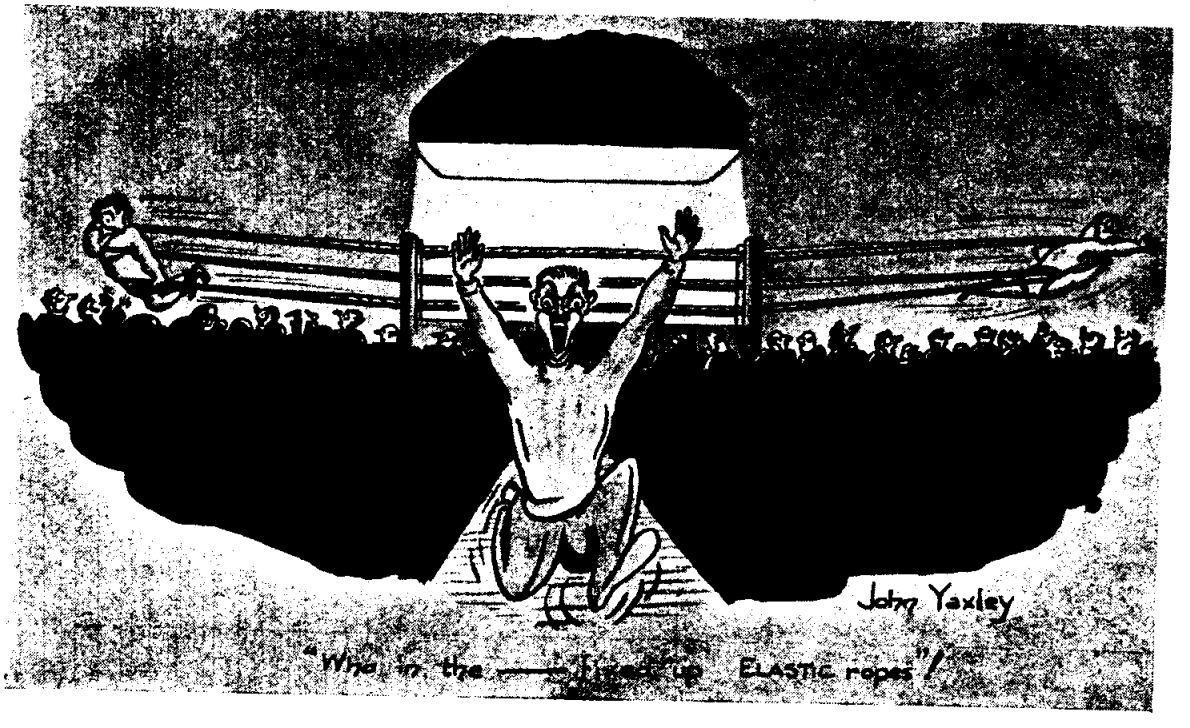
The Middlesbrough Amateur Wrestling Club is open to any enthusiast who cares to go along, and he will find as fine a bunch of lads as he is likely to meet anywhere waiting to welcome him. The members of this two-year old club are a keen lot, and all they ask of a newcomer is that he is really interested in wrestling. They do not demand the newcomers should be potential world-beaters or anything like that, but they do want them to get down to the business of learning the job in hand-wrestling. And, they will help beginners to do that, too.

During the summer the club has limited its activities somewhat, but now it is beginning to take on an air of activity again. The club has not been closed down during the summer, of course, but the usual Thursday night's contests have been called off, and instead, only training has taken place on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Now, with the winter season on top of us, wrestling tournaments (for members only) will be starting again.

The club's champion (Tees-side area) are: **Martin Bingham** (Bantamweight), **Johnny Batty** (Lightweight), **Frank Argument** (Welterweight), **Ron Crockett** (Middleweight) and the Heavy and Light-Heavyweight titles are at present vacant.

Anyone who can get along and is keen to get on the mat and become an amateur wrestler should certainly take a look in at the Middlesbrough Amateur Wrestling Club. They will be pleased to welcome you.

"We are always pleased to welcome anyone who means to wrestle, but if you're just another 'glamour seeker,' keep away. We've had too many already," says JOHNNY BATTY, Secretary of the Middlesbrough Club.



". . and I enjoyed Pat Butler's article immensley. I'm interested in learning more about the subject," says Capt. Doyle Russell, writing from California

THE only exception I take is to his assertion that Judo is more of a woman's sport than wrestling. Both are ideal for women. Whereas it is natural for men to strike with their fists in offence or defence it is natural for women to pull and tug, mainly of the hair when they are untrained and have not learned that other manoeuvres are better. Few women are natural sluggers but rather are natural wrestlers, whereas men are natural sluggers and boxers. This is not to belittle the reports of some of my correspondents concerning women boxers mainly in the U.S. and in England. I believe them to be not too typical of women but fine athletes. I have not been fortunate enough to meet any yet.

I might add that not only do we have lots of girl Judo experts in this country but our girl wrestlers frequently use Judo manoeuvres and many are experts. As a whole, I believe, a Judo expert does not fare too well against an experienced wrestler especially among the girls.

In one respect you are absolutely right. A girl wrestler is regarded as something out of the ordinary particularly by anyone who knows them personally as I do. Not only do they have to be the cream of the crop to stand up under their rugged efforts but they have to be of the highest character to avoid the hostility of the press, which plays up the slightest fault which would hardly be mentioned in any except a girl wrestler. In addition to this, they are by far the best looking and shapliest of the girl athletes, are among the best groomed of any class of girls, and many are very successful wives and mothers. A good example is my good friend, Rita Martinez, whose 6th grade daughter baked me a birthday cake in April. How many 6th grade girls can bake a cake even when her mother is not a wrestler? By the way, she plans to be a wrestler, too.

JOYCE FORD.

BETTY HAWKINS.

GLORIA BARATTINI.

The Life of Hackenschmidt

Fourth Instalment.

THE CHAMPION'S WRESTLING PARTNER.

IT was a wise move on the part of the champion to engage Jacob Koch as his wrestling partner, as the genial German is undoubtedly a clever Graeco-Roman wrestler, and the displays of the pair on the mat seldom failed to be appreciated.

Jacob Koch was born in April, 1871, at Neuss on the Rhine, a little town near Cologne. From his boyhood he had a passion for gymnastics and exercises and soon became known as the best jumper and bar performer in his district. He formed of his comrades an association which still flourishes. Young Koch excelled as a wrestler, and that gradually became his favourite exercise in strength and skill. He travelled through Germany, Belgium, France and Holland, cheerfully engaging with any and every opponent. In 1903 Koch visited London, and bore away a world's championship promoted by the National Sporting Club. But the most sensational incident in his career occurred in 1904 at the Circus Busch, Berlin. At this establishment a wrestling tournament attracted 35 competitors, struggling for the world's championship. There were many strenuous bouts, but the prominent competitors were Heinrich Eberle and Jacob Koch, of whom the former was the favourite. It was estimated that his supporters had risked no less a sum than $100,000,00 upon his chances; the sum involved in Jacob Koch's behalf was believed to be $60,000,00. None took a greater interest in the tournament than the German Crown Prince, who was in constant attendance. When at length the champions met, their struggles endured 46 minutes, but at length Koch threw Everle. There was a wild

Recounted by John Valentine from the fihst biography ever written on Georges Hackenschmidt, by Herbert Turner, Manchester, England, 1907.

scene. The victor was escorted to his house by an enthusiastic crowd numbering many hundreds, but the commotion did not end here. The losses of Eberle's supporters made them furious, for they declared he had not done his best. The business was brought to an issue by one of the supporters who had lost $1200,00 and had brought an action in the courts for its recovery from the bookmaker, making the specific charge against Eberle that he deliberately lost the match. Public interest in the proceedings was acute. From day to day the court was crowded. All the wrestlers who had been engaged in the tournament were cited, and one by one made the solemn declaration that each competitor had striven his utmost for victory. In this way was Eberle vindicated, and the rare crown of legal decision was placed upon Jacob Koch's victory. His next great match took place in Paris, 1905. There and then a great tournament was arranged at Bostock's Hippodrome. In this instance Jacob Koch's most terrible opponent was the famous Laurent Le Beaucairois. Four times has Jacob met this redoubtable wrestler, and three times has he beaten him, the fourth encounter being drawn. In the Paris tournament Koch was notably victorious, winning once more the championship, also a prize of 10,000 francs and a medal presented by the Municipality of Paris. Never before had a German so distinguished himself in Paris. Among the famous whom Koch defeated one may mention Omer De Buillon, Jess Pederson and Constant Le Boucher. Koch is at this moment in the supreme pride of manliness. His height is 5ft. 10in.; his weight is 240lbs.; his chest measurement is 50in.; his waist 40in.; his thighs 25in.; calves 17in.; his biceps measure 17in.

Koch is perfectly trained, every organ being developed to admiration. His strength is amazing and his skill as remarkable. The longest encounter does not perceptibly tire him, nor impair his perfect balance of his temper. On the occasion of Koch's last visit to England he deposited $800,00 with the journal "Sportsman," to bind a match with the champion but the challenge was ignored.

GEORGES THE GREAT IN AUSTRALIA.

After a sojourn of two years and a half in this country Hackenschmidt quitted England for Australia in the autumn of 1904, but he did not find it all strawberries and cream in the land of the Golden Fleece, although he was in receipt of a salary of $600,00 weekly for four months. On arrival at Sydney he was compelled to seek medical assistance in the local hospital and it was some time before he was capable of resuming the wrestling trick in the Antipodes. But Hackenschmidt, who is endowed with a sound constitution, and the stamina of a motor car, was eventually nursed back to health and strength. and he at length commenced his tour down under' with every prospect of success. It happened, however, that Bert Woods, whose pleasant disposition and spirit of good fellowship has made him popular in the world of wrestling. decided to kick over the traces, and much to the annoyance of the champion he found himself in the grip of the law, which I understand, had a tendency of putting a damper on the tour of the Commonwealth. The May number of Apollo's Magazine in 1905 explains the cause of the bother thusly: "Away out Melbourne the Russian Lion's claws were unpleasantly in touch with the face of Herbert Woods, an English wrestler imported from England at a salary of $8,00 per week, which was reduced to $6,00 when resting. Our Australian correspondent has drafted us exhaustive details, which, of course, we can only comment upon briefly. It is a very pretty story and opens with the "tricks of the game" as described by the Colonial Press. Woods claimed $4000,00—Ye Gods! —for breach of contract, assault and false imprisonment. It was alleged that Hackenschmidt dismissed

(Continued on page 27).

★ *Introducing* VERNE GAGNE of Minnesota

It didn't take GAGNE long to rocket to the top in the pro wrestling world, and his success is phenomenal in view of the fact that only three years ago he was an amateur. His knowledge of all the holds is quite evident here by the way he has his opponent all tied up like a chicken.

WRESTLING fans, may I introduce the Junior Heavyweight Champion of the United States, **VERNE GAGNE**, successor to Leroy McGuirk, and holder of the crown for close on one year. Verne has been a great champion, defending his claim in close to 50 matches. A modest, good looking kid with a secret ambition, to become both the heavyweight and junior champion of the U.S.

On November 13th, 1950, Gagne became the National Wrestling Association and Alliance Junior Heavyweight Champion, a position he won in an eight week tournament held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In the tournament were the nations top junior grapplers.

He was born in Robbinsdale, Minnesota, suburb of the Twin Cities, twenty-five years ago. Verne first became interested in wrestling when at high school. Robbinsdale High boasted of a wrestling team which won inter- scholastic championships 8 years in a row. Young Gagne not only captained the team for two years but participated in football and baseball. After his graduation he entered the University of Minnesota and promptly made the wrestling and football teams. At the age of 17 he played first string quarter-back and became one of the youngest players ever to toss a pass for the Golden Gophers. However, Verne's real fame came when he won four Big Ten Titles, two national collegiate and one National A.A.U. championships, all in wrestling for his college. And what is more a tribute of his fine wrestling skill, in 1948 Verne made the Olympic mat team.

During the last war Verne served his country by enlisting in the Marines. In 1949 Verne decided to enter the pro wrestling field. In less than two years he became the junior heavyweight champion, defeating such established stars as Bill Varga, Sonny Myers, Rito Romero, John Balls and Angelo Martinelli.

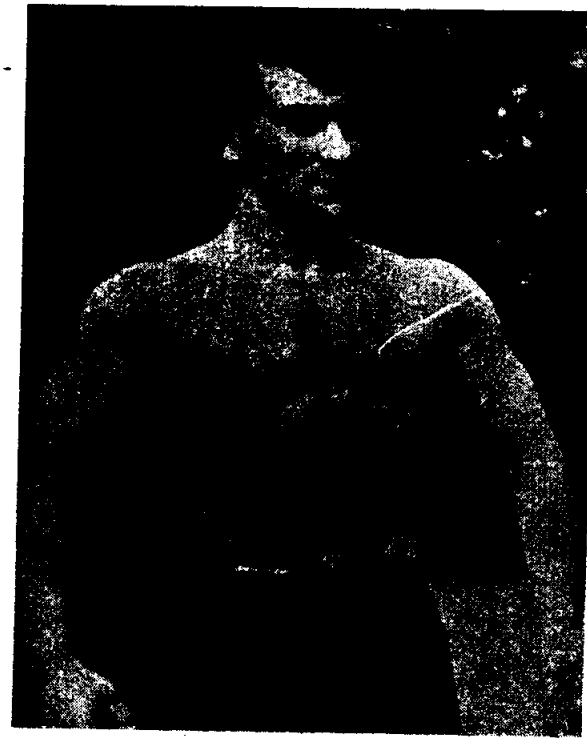
Let us tell you of Verne's type of grappling. He is fast, clean, stands 5ft. 11in. and weighs 205lbs. Scientific, with his favourite hold being a rolling cradle, he also features a leg crab, drop-kicks, body-slams and jacknives.

Outside the ring Gagne is a relaxed affable young man, married and has a son two years old. Verne loves all sports, specialising in golf and baseball. He enjoys western music, movies and books. His ability, likable personality, and couth mannerisms, have won him thousands of fans. His willingness to meet every contender has brought him news-papers' acclaim.

He recently defeated Bill Goelz in a two out of three fall match. A win over Goelz is a win over the most noteworthy junior heavyweight in the sport aside to Gagne. A great champion, Verne's name will remain in wrestling for years to come.

Next month yours truly brings another story about an American star.

JERRY FORD.

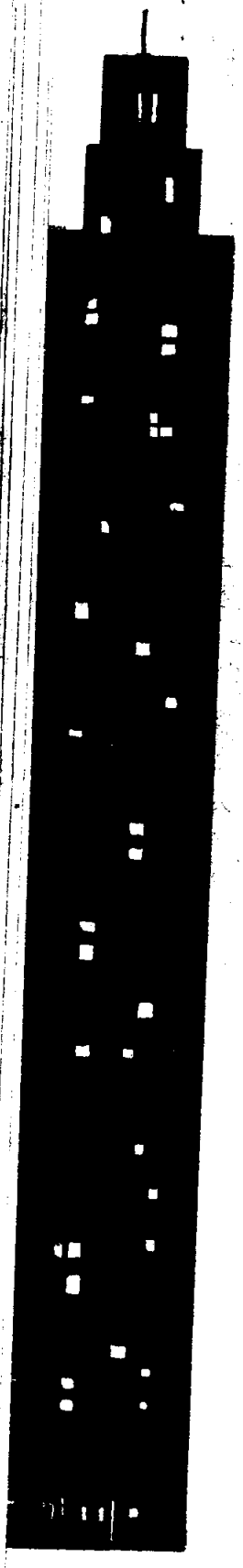


The Amazing Dennis Winn of Leeds

HOW many people do you know who have started training and have stated "I am going to have an 18in. arm," or "I am going to train until I have a 48in. chest." But how many of these people realise their prophecies, or even get half the way? I have only witnessed two people who have conquered their ambitions so far. One is Reg. Park and the other Dennis Winn. When I first met Dennis he struck me as being a snobbish and rather self-centred person, which is the opinion some people still get. After working out with him for a couple of weeks, I found out he was in fact, rather shy and a little reserved. He commenced training with Reg. and myself two and a half years ago, starting with the same poundages as I was using at that time, but was very soon past my limits and trying to catch up with Reg. This seemed impossible at the time. Having only this high standard to follow, I felt sure he would soon be discouraged and fall back to my poundages. Training three nights a week for two and a half hours was not always enough for him and we used to leave him training hard many times after eleven at night. It was his sheer determination that kept him there, and helped him attain his present proportions (which in my opinion rank him in line with Theriault, and the best developed men in the world). His measurements are: upper arm 16¾in., forearm 12¾in., wrist 7½in., neck 17in., chest 48¾in., waist 30in., thigh 24¾in., calf 16¾in., height 5ft. 5in., weight 164lbs.

His muscles are capable of pressing two 120lb. dumbells on bench, clean and press two 95lb. dumbells, and 105lb. dumbells—8 reps. on incline bench. With what I believe is his favourite exercise, the press behind neck, he can do 180lbs. 6 reps.

When opportunity shows itself he would like to make sport his livelihood. Though weightlifting plays a large part in his life, he is a capable swimmer and hand balancer. He would like short men to be given the same chance as the six footers in all competitions, and is always interested to meet fellow athletes, so if you see him around—weights are his favourite subject.



JERRY FORD'S Wrestling ★ Newsreel

GEORGEOUS George started out as a boxer in the light-heavyweight class. He forsook the boxing game for pro wrestling only because, as George puts it, no money in it and boxing was not rough enough.

Ernie Dusek, who to-day is past the 40 mark, has been grappling since the age of sixteen.

Bob Bruns starred before the war as a member of the U.S. Olympic Water Polo team.

Dick Lane continues to do a fine job announcing television matches on the West Coast.

"Two Ton" TONY GALENTO, a one-time boxer who later tried his hand at wrestling, does not appear to have a too refined conception of the sport as he planks himself firmly on top of PRIMO CARNERA. This contest was, of course, in America.

Buddy Rogers went up to Canada recently, drew huge crowds in Quebec, Toronto and Montreal. In Buddy's second week up in the cold lands he won the Canadian version of the heavyweight championship by defeating all entries including **Bob Managoff**, in a big international tournament.

Speaking about Canada, we learned that **Yukon Eric** reigns as top man there via his victories over **Yvon Robert** and **Bob Managoff**. Robert, who had ruled as top man there for so many years, also recently dropped a match to the **Great Togo**. Yvon is on the road to a comeback and it is said he will meet the winner of the **Lou Thesz-Great Togo** match which will take place soon in the Montreal Forum. **Bill Watson** is the only top man that has not been upset recently in Canada.

Don Leo Jonathan, young handsome star, who you will be reading a lot about in this column, lost his Rocky Mountain heavyweight championship to the **Masked Monster** at the Mammoth Garden in Denver, Colorado. The 290lb. monster, who is masked, took 2 out of 3 falls from the popular Utah heavyweight.

Song which is played officially for **John Barrend** by his fan clubs is "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Adrian Baillargeon, currently starring on the East Coast, shows all the promise of someday blossoming into a champion. However, he has much to learn.

Verne Gagne, the sensational junior heavyweight champion, upped his rating by defeating **Gorgeous George** in California.

Sandor Szabo has teamed up with **Wladek Kowalski** as partner in team matches. They are soon to meet the **Sharpe Brothers** for the Pacific Coast Championship.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Newsreel is delighted to say that a mistake was made recently when we stated that **Don Eagle** may never wrestle again. Our information came from newspapers and reliable people who are close to the wrestling business. Actually, Don did hurt his back in California while taking on **Baron Leone.** However, Don recovered in less than a month and is as good as ever. Incidentally, there may be more to it than just that.

Dead ringer for George Sanders, English film star and Academy Award winner is Sandor Kovacs.

Herman Hickman, well known Yale University grid-iron coach, wrestled for over a year sometime back. Known as the "Tenessee Cannonball," he met some of the top men.

We asked **Theresa The's** how it feels being a woman grappler. Here is her answer. "Nobody tries to snatch my purse on the street. No-one gets fresh with me ever. It's a great feeling to know that you can take care of yourself; I don't have to look backwards when I walk down the street at night."

Robert Noel, a well known Florida animal trainer, has taught a troupe of gorillas to box and wrestle and is currently touring the southern circuit, drawing tremendous crowds.

Bob Clay reigns as Heart of America champion. Clay won a disputed decision from Kowalski to annex the title.

Few men have risen so quickly to top notch quality as has **"The Chest" Bernard.** Bernard recently drew with Thesz, stands 6ft. 1in., weighs 250lbs., and his chest measures 58ins.

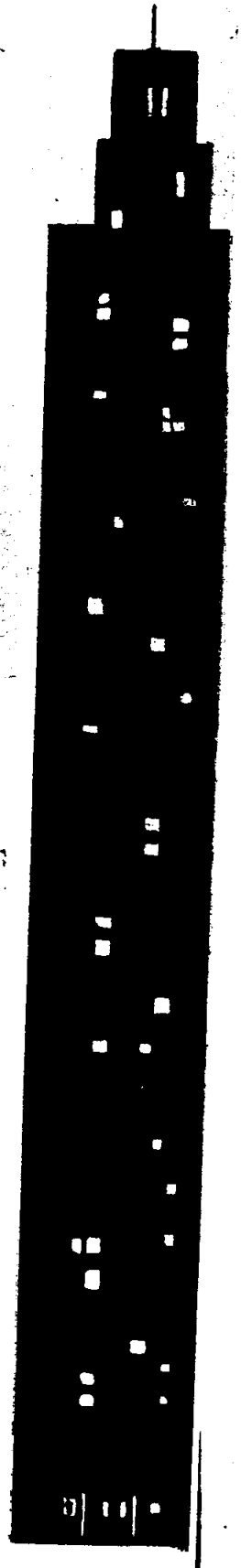
Wrestling in Japan has enjoyed such a revival that they are building new arenas which will accommodate more than 15,000 fans.

Many people ask who would win a battle between a boxer and a wrestler. Well, your reporter went to one of the greatest boxers of our time, **Jack Dempsey.** I thought Jack would be in a better position than anyone else because of his years of boxing and years of being a grappling referee, to answer this disputed question. Jack said "that a wrestler would stand every advantage and probably a man like Rocca could kill a boxer. Besides **Gene Stanlee** took on five renowned boxers in one hour and defeated them all. Even in my time I had many offers to meet wrestlers but never accepted them."

Don Eagle is a man of excitement. When he was just a kid of seventeen he was travelling home with his mother through the woods, very common in Canada. Out of behind a tree appeared a 300lb. grizzly bear. Don recalls "Without thinking I tried to be a hero, pulled out a penknife and giving out with all my might the Indian war chant, I rushed the bear and stabbed him. The bear was so amazed he turned around and ran, not because I hurt him, he probably never felt anything, but because of my war chant."

Wrestlers and fans alike on the West Coast are up in arms to try to get **Mr. Moto's** sleeper hold barred from wrestling. But where would Mr. Moto be without his hold which puts opponents to sleep. Sometimes they do not wake up for hours. The bearded Japanese exponent of the mat science stands only 5ft. 8in. tall but weighs 245lbs. Mr. Moto give the impression of being an intelligent man though his best American words are "so sorry."

Glori Baratinni, opera singer turned wrestler, was a noted opera star. She was featured in Malerno Chapel as well as Rome's Royal Palace.



Do you know the favourite holds of the top stars. Let us review them. **Lou Thesz** features the airplane spin; **Tony Rocca,** the back-breaker; **Don Eagle,** the Indian deathlock; **Gorgeous George,** the hip roll; **Frank Sexton,** the giant swing; **Bill Watson,** the Irish whip; **Bill Varga,** the abdominal stretch; **Cyclone Anaya,** the cobra twist; **Ernie Dusek, the** flying body press;**George Becker,** the alligator clutch; **Frank Talaber,** the piledriver; **Baron Leone,** the neck breaker; **Morris Shapiro,** the full nelson; **Yukon Eric** the leg crab; **Verne Gagne,** the rolling leg split; **Walter Palmer,** the leg spin, **Hans Schnabel,** the blockbuster; **Nanjo Singh,** the cobra twist; **Bill Goelz,** the arm spin; **Lord Carlton,** the southern cross; **John Demchuk,** the rolling key lock; **Mike London** the cannonball; **Sandor Kovacs,** reverse nelson; **Great Togo,** the Japanese Yatsi hold; **Jack Nichols,** the crab twist; **Ivan Rasputin,** the bear hug; **Ruffy Silverstein,** pinning double arm jacknife.

Adrian Baillargeon, the Canadian strongman, has been tabbed with the nickname "Samson." Adrian may someday blossom into a top notcher. Advice: why don't you try a few more bodyslams and then climax it with your pinning hold.

Lord Carlton has been absent from the ring for over a month. It is the result of an automobile accident in which Carlton injured his back. Carlton will be rarin' to go in a week or two.

Jim Londos told us that he still considers himself champion. He has long claimed the championship. Says Jim: "I have wrestled **Carnera, Ski Hi Lee, King Kong Kashey Hardboiled Haggerty,** and many others of the so-called stars of to-day. None of them have been able to pin this old man's shoulders to the canvas. On the contrary they found their shoulders pinned."

Wild Bill Longson was presented a plaque by **Sam Muchnick** (president of the N.W.A.) for outstanding contribution to wrestling both in and outside the ring. Bill is 35, stands 6ft. 3in. tall, and weighs 240lbs. Very rough and user of the unorthodox, ruly and legal holds, he has defeated such greats as **Lou Thesz, Bob Managoff, Bill Watson** and **Danny McShane.** Owner of the dreaded piledriver, Bill is an odd grappler who can be great at times, and then again at times mediocre. With ten years of pro grappling behind him and twice N.W.A. heavyweight champion, Bill still rates as one of the tops in the game.

"Official Wrestling" recently rated the top 12 drawing cards in America. This magazine is published in the East and in their rating they failed to list both **Buddy Rogers** and **Gorgeous George.** Both Rogers and George are in the top 5 as drawing cards in America, that's for sure.

American visitors to Mexico City are amazed at the tremendous crowds which are attracted to wrestling matches. The Coliseo, seating 15,000 fans, is packed once and sometimes twice a week.

George Macracostis, once junior heavyweight champion of Greece, was asked recently what his biggest thrill in life was. His answer amazed us: "Coming to America." You see, during the last war he was a captain in the Greek Army. In 1941 he escaped the Germans by floating on a raft for three weeks and finally lading in Alexandria, Greece. From there he struggled to South America and then to the States George is billed as the Golden Greek and does most of his wrestling on the East Coast

Jim Henry (Green Hornet) was once a top lineman for Tulsa University.

Top promoters in the game without a doubt are **Eddie Quinn** of Montreal and **Fred Kohler** of Chicago.

American fans, let me remind you that **Antonino Rocca** wrestled for seven years in South America. There strangle holds are allowed and in fact are a form of submission of which Rocca was tops. So if at times Tony should slip up and use one of his pet strangle holds, remember he was taught and employed these holds with skill.

News reaches us from across the Atlantic that **Frank Sexton** will arrive in the States soon. Frank has remained undefeated throughout all his encounters in Europe.

The Great Scott, who could never do very well on the East Coast, is nothing short of sensational on the West Coast.

Max Baer may not tangle with **Carnera** in wrestling trunks this summer, but word has it he will referee a Madison Square Garden show which will see Carnera as one of the contestants.

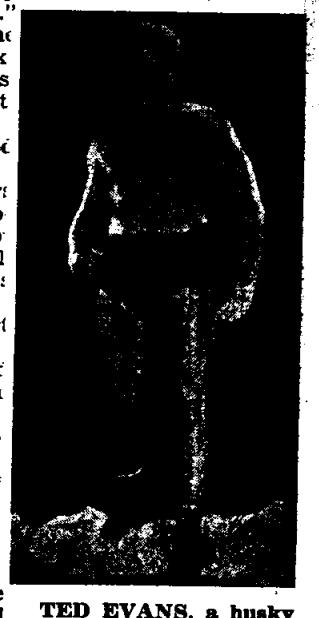
It seems that the lust for variety and glamour is taking its effect on **Danny McShane.** Danny is planning to let his hair grow, then bleach it a la Gorgeous George.

Yukon Eric continues to do more than his share as far as defeating opponents is concerned. In Boston he took on both the **Dusek Brothers, Ernie and Emil,** tossed both out of the ring and was declared the victor. The riot squad went to work and the ring went wild with commotion.

Here is a quotation from a recent article written by **Jack Dempsey.** "I've met them in all sections and can attest that as a group, wrestlers rank higher in those characteristics—morals and intelligence—than any other group of professional athletes." I believe that **Gene Tunney** would go along with Jack on that statement.

'TARZAN' WHITE, a rough and tough Canadian of the 'all action' breed.

★



TED EVANS, a husky blonde giant from Montreal.

GETTING TO GRIPS!

By DENNIS BARRY JACKSON.

The man who missed his MAT! No! It's our correspondent hypnotising a couple of R.A.F. boys. See below.

Taller than Toller.

ANACONDA or **Primo Carnera,** giants of modern wrestling, might well be jealous of the size of **James Toller.** If you had been walking around the streets of St. Neots around 1812 you would have seen James Toller, a lad of seventeen, head and shoulders above six-foot men. When only twelve he had already outstripped the tallest Lifeguardsman, whereas the other boys in the village were striving hard to be bigger than their elder sisters. If they had wished to be taller than Toller's sisters, however, they would have been confronted with a difficult task, as one of them stood 5ft. 8ins. when only thirteen, and the other measured 5ft. at the age of eight. These two sisters challenged James to the family's height championship until he passed 7ft. What a large family they were! James' favourite sport was wrestling. He defeated several local bullies and once entered an open wrestling tournament. All the local tough guys entered for the tournament and turned up at the appointed hour. But when they saw James Toller, all 8ft. 6in. of him, they preferred to relinquish their challenge rather than risk their necks against this monster.

"The Young English Giant," for so was Toller termed, was born at St. Neots on August 28th, 1795. When ten he was a nice little boy of 5ft. Perhaps he was lucky to be born in the eighteenth century, for in our days he would have a hard task convincing cinema managers that he was a half-price patron, and as he grew older no doubt other cinema goers would complain if seated behind him. At seventeen Toller was 8ft. high and in the next year he added another inch and a half. Two years later came his first public exhibition and naturally he amazed the crowds. Autumn, 1815, saw him in London. He was presented to the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Russia. However many subjects these two rulers commanded they both found in James Toller someone to look up to.

Wrestling While Asleep.

A few days ago I was giving a demonstration of hypnotism to an R.A.F. audience. Two good subjects were found and quickly put to sleep. They were told that when they awoke one of them would be **Jack Pye** and the other his 'bitter enemy' **Man Mountain Bill Benny.** The two airmen were told to wake up and then left to their own devices. "Jack Pye" took one look at his enemy and hurled him to the floor. They continued to grapple, breaking two chairs (much to Sergeant Milner's disgust), until the "Man Mountain" was carried away to see the medical officer. Who says the R.A.F. isn't tough enough?

Epitaph on a Champion.

In 1621 a champion wrestler died. He had beaten all comers. He lived on the borders of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire at Bluntisham. The inscription on his grave paid great tribute to his wrestling ability, and reads as follows:—

"Here lies the Conqueror conquered.
Valiant as ever England bred;
Who neither art, nor steel, nor strength
Could e'er subdue, till death at length
Threw him on his back, and here he lies
In hopes hereafter to rise."

Personality Parade.

All sports have their personalities. Indeed it is personality that makes any sport. But what sport can boast personalities so remarkable and forceful as the world of wrestling? There is the overgrown elfin, a nightmare come to life, and fighting his way round the world under the name of **"The Angel."** There is **Bill Benny** like a benevolent black-bearded Father Christmas, appearing perhaps too kind to hurt an opponent but nevertheless feared by all. Then there is **David Armstrong,** a kind of India-rubber Man, whom none can easily twist into submission. There is **Jack Pye,** glowering villainy, and **Tiger Woods,** fiercely gyrating his way to popularity. What sport indeed can boast personalities such as these?

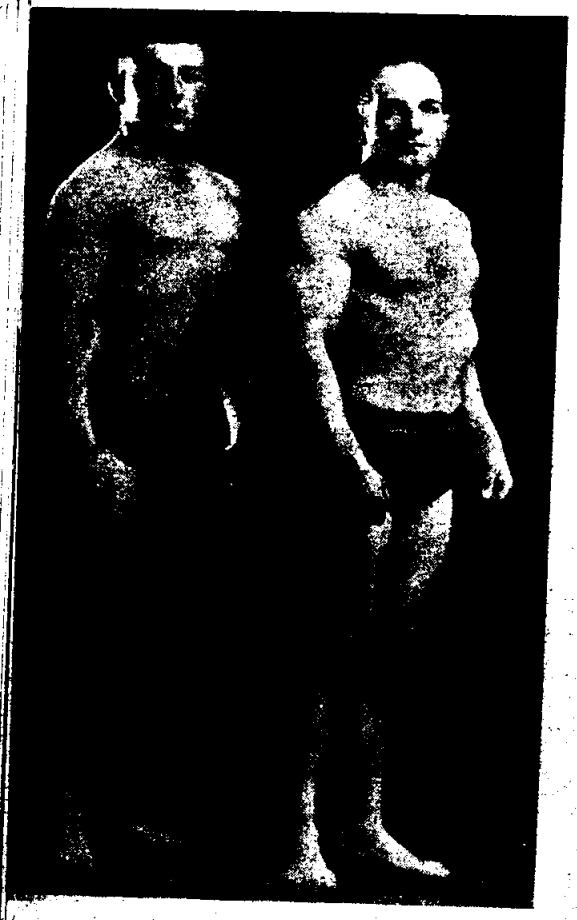
True or False.

One of the following sentences is untrue; the others are all true. Can you spot the untrue sentence?

1. There is a wrestler called "Dick the Dormouse."
2. Gino Garibaldi was suspended in New York for tossing an opponent at the spectators.
3. Two wrestlers while training decided to see which of them could hold his breath the longest. Nearby a church clock was striking twelve. The first wrestler held his breath from the first stroke to the sixth, and the second wrestler held his breath from the sixth stroke to the twelfth. So the second one won.
4. In Spanish bull fighting a bull which wins a fight is killed.
5. Cyril Washbrook refrained from immediately accepting an offer to play for England because of the pressure of work in his business of promoting wrestling.

Till We Meet Again.

Well it's a pleasure to be writing columns for the MAT once again. Each month I hope to bring you news and odd history of the world of wrestling. And in case you want to know the answer to the True or False quiz, you will find it on page 27.



JOHN VALENTINE of Leeds (with Phillip Lyon, also of Leeds, on his right).

Development of Physical Power

By JOHN VALENTINE.

CHAPTER III.

THE FIRST STEPS (without apparatus). This first lesson will be primarily for the beginner, but we must not ignore the fact that some of these movements are very useful even to those already used to heavy exercise or whose daily work though of a strenuous nature has no call on certain muscles of the body.

THE ABDOMEN. This part of the anatomy houses the most important organs of the body. The stomach, liver, kidneys, bladder, bowels, intestines, are here and if these are not kept in proper functioning order then the rest of the human body suffers.

A protruding stomach on a person of any sex is one sign of declining body efficiency. A flat stomach indicates youthful vigour whether man or woman. There are many athletes who manage to get along in spite of possessing an unsightly midriff, but no matter how well they may perform in their professional career there can be no doubt that without that surplus rubbish they carry around they would be much better and last in their chosen game much longer. Even Napoleon's destiny may have been more successful had he paid more attention to his expanding waistline than his empire.

Sedentary workers need special attention where their lower body is concerned. Sat down all day as they are with their organs crushed for eight hours as if in a concertina it is obvious that after a few years of this sluggish existence only physical disaster can be the dividends they can expect—as one gets on in life his job must begin to tell and only a cared for body will see him through.

So let's try a little work-out on those stomach muscles. This movement stretches them, compresses them and generally tones them up magnificently.

Lie flat on the floor. Clasp hands behind the neck, with your feet secure under the rung of a chair, raise your body till it is at right angles to your extended legs, keep your upper body moving till you almost touch your legs with your nose. Repeat till tired. Give your stomach muscles three sessions of this. If at the beginning you find your muscles not

JOHN CARL GRIMEK ("Muscle God of the Era").

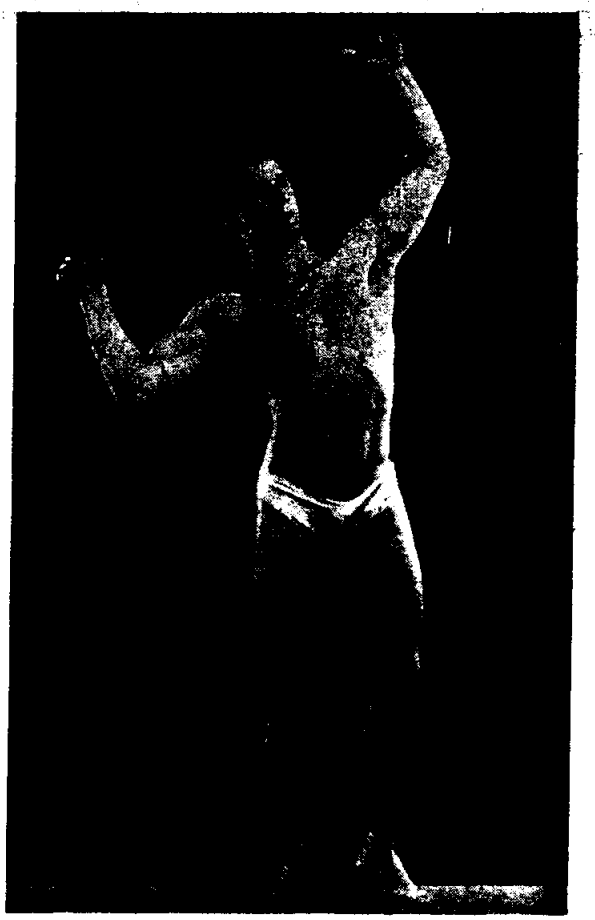
strong enough to lift your body from its supine position then you can help a little by removing your hands from behind the neck and folding your arms across the chest. As you get stronger in this exercise you will be able to even hold a weight behind your neck. Sandow, the strongman, performed the movement with a person held on his chest.

Another supine position movement. Hands behind neck—extend toes and keeping legs together lift them from the floor steadily till at right angles to the upper body and just as slowly return to the floor. Repeat till tired for three sessions.

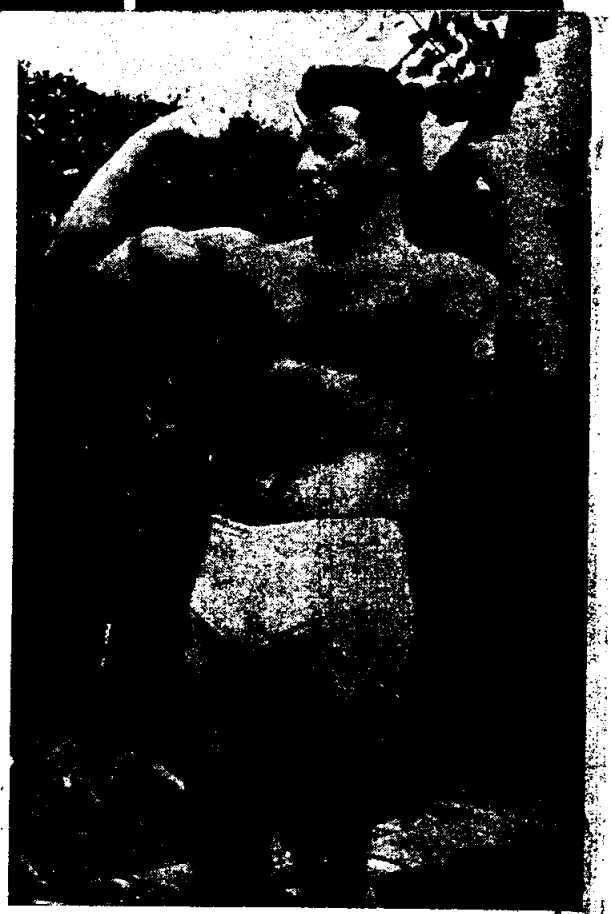
...**Still lying flat on back.** Raise the legs to the perpendicular position then imagine you are on a bicycle and pump your legs like billy-ho for as many as 50 to 100 times.

STANDING ON YOUR TWO FEET. We have a simple movement which not only looks after your waist muscles but tones up the muscles of the back. Lock the fingers of both hands over the head and force the body from side to side until you can actually feel the strain in those side muscles. Carry on till tired for three sessions.

The previous exercise and the following were favourites of a former American strongman famous for his power to take over 650lbs. from off the ground and for his statuesque physique. No man can begin to look like one of the old Greek or Roman physiques unless his waist or side muscles show as muscles and not as rolls of blubber.



REG. PARK of Leeds ("Mr. Britain," and the finest physique in the British Empire of all time).



DAVID COHEN of Leeds (now teaching in Israel as he taught his champion pupil, Reg. Park).

Standing erect with arms at right angles to the body—bend first and then on the other. The movement should be done deliberately and not violently. Concentrate on the side muscles and tense them as much as possible as you BEND and RAISE. Do till tired—with three sessions of repetitions.

THIS ONE IS A SMASHER. You hang for this! But by your hands! Grasp the top of your mother-in-law's door-frame palms facing you. Raise your legs straight forward till they are at right angles to your body. Try to fold yourself up like a penknife— you'll soon tire on this one but give it what you can and use it for three sessions.

The aforementioned movements will suffice to do all you want to improve the appearance of your stomach—practised assiduously you will develop muscles on the front that remind one of the corrugations on a wash-board. You'll be able to stand the shock of a sudden blow, or even the weight of a full grown man right where you once had a paunch. You will eat better, feel on top of the world, walk lighter and springier and build a foundation of insurance against hernia.

Never exercise just after a meal—give your organs about an hour to deal with the food it has just partaken. And after the exercise give your body a little time to "settle down" and cool off before you start a meal. Don't rush off to bed immediately after a meal—relax for a while; read, or listen to music or do your pools.

(Continued on page 27).

THE AMERICAN PRESS

IT is both surprising and amusing to constantly receive letters from my correspondents in the British Isles bemoaning the fact that wrestling does not enjoy a favourable press in England as it does in the States.

Although there has been a considerable change for the better in many of the popular picture magazines in recent months the press as a whole here in the U.S.A. is definitely not favourable to wrestling. The sports sections of the newspapers devote many columns to baseball, football, boxing, basketball, horse racing including the tip-sheets in which many people see the promise of a fortune for a small bet, tennis, angling, bowling, golf, etc., including huge pictures of the stars therein. Wrestling rarely rates even a postage stamp sized picture and usually is dealt with in a tiny column an inch or so in length stating the mere names and matchings on the card—if it is mentioned at all. Also, you will notice that frequently they are marked "Advertisement." Amazing but true!

A notable exception to the trend among the magazines toward a realistic presentation of wrestling is the famous old Police Gazette which has turned in the opposite direction with a series of articles attempting to run down modern day wrestling and lamenting the passage of the "good old days."

Rare indeed is the sports columnist for the daily newspapers who gives a good word to wrestling or even mentions it at all although they devote yards of columns to such items as the lace panties of "Gorgeous Gussie" Moran whose record as a tennis player certainly is not too impressive. In fact, her lace pantie episodes cause many people to have the wrong impression of our women athletes and our women in general. However, I blame the press much more than Miss Moran who undoubtedly feels that she must accept the publicity she can get or pass into obscurity.

Not only is the space allowed to wrestling almost of microscopic scale but a good portion of this space is used by self-styled experts who give "inside dope" on the game and imply if not actually state that all wrestlers are morans or less, all matches are fixed, and all wrestling fans are stupid if not subversive. The only flaw to their reasoning is that they are pretty largely wrong in their conclusions and usually are acquainted with neither the wrestlers nor the wrestling profession and rarely if ever see the matches. As a matter of fact, the wrestlers as a whole are well-educated, cultured and substantial citizens and compare quite favourably in all respects with any other class of athletes, the public in general and sports writers in particular. In spite of the poor press coverage you will look long to find another class of people with less scandal in their ranks than the wrestlers, either the men or the girls.

Perhaps we should not take the matter of poor press coverage too seriously as most certainly the wrestlers do not. Why should they when wrestling is constantly gaining in popularity while the other sports, in spite of the best efforts of the press, are tottering if not actually losing ground? It is even reported that wrestling outdrew the major league St. Louis Browns in their own home town last year!

It does seem that sports writers and editors should realise that they carry a lot of weight only if they are right and that as Lincoln said: "You cannot fool all the people all the time." The advent of television has permitted the public to sit in its parlour and decide for itself whether the sports sections have been right or whether wrestling is one of the greatest if not the greatest of spectacular sports. It has decided and as a result wrestling which always has been popular is even more so now. At the same time other major sports are crying about diminishing gates and predicting chaos for the sports world if not for civilisation in general, wrestling is taking it in its stride.

I have surprised myself by rambling so long without mentioning my favourite field, girls' wrestling. However, I give much of the credit to the continued and increasing popularity of wrestling to them. This is proved by the fact that only the very best of the men wrestlers compete with them in support by the fans as evidenced by the gate receipts. Also, it is the girls who occasionally are needled into proving to some bigotted and often foul-mouthed sports writer, athletic commisioner, etc., that they really know their work by demonstrating on them. In recent months both my good friends, Mildred Burke and Nell Stewart, have done so quite convincingly according to reports. Perhaps it would be safer for such critics to watch the girls on their television sets or if they do not own a set to invest in a glass of beer and watch them free in a tavern. It is rare indeed to find a crowd anywhere that watches other programmes when the wrestlers—especially the girl wrestlers—are on. It is hard to imagine anyone who has seen them in action who doubts their ability. Or better still I suggest they attend the matches in person and if they still have doubts, call on the girls personally, and they will find that the trash they have been writing is wholly inaccurate.

As a matter of fact the wrestlers, both the men and the women, are spoken of very highly by people who know them personally including the great Jack Dempsey whose judgment is above question.

I do not want to give the impression that I feel wrestling is above criticism. It is not and changes are needed urgently and if not made wrestling may sink to the level of some of the other major sports. I haven't space to go into many details. However, one practice quite detrimental to the sport is prevalent here in the Los Angeles area. A five day per week television schedule is disastrous. There just aren't that many good wrestlers in the vicinity and therefore that many good matches. It will take master planning to improve the quality of the matches as the fans will constantly require and at the same time provide enough cards to accommodate the crowds. Other sections, such as Chicago, are faced with the same problems.

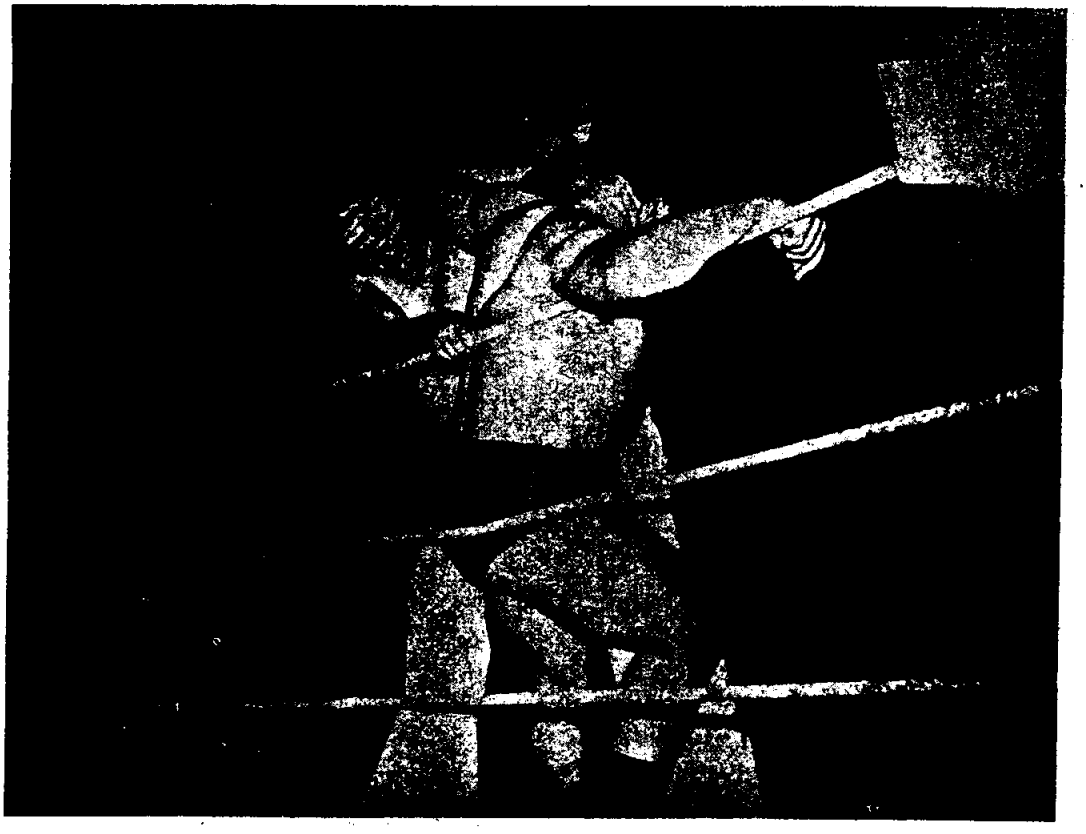
Anyway, this most ancient of sports has always been and always will be in a dominant spot in the hearts of the people, the press to the contrary notwithstanding. Other sports can claim—not too convincingly—to be "The Sport of Kings," the "National Sport," etc., but wrestling is the sport of the people from the scrubwoman to the mink coat set and the street peddlar to the business tycoon.

DOYLE G. RUSSELL.

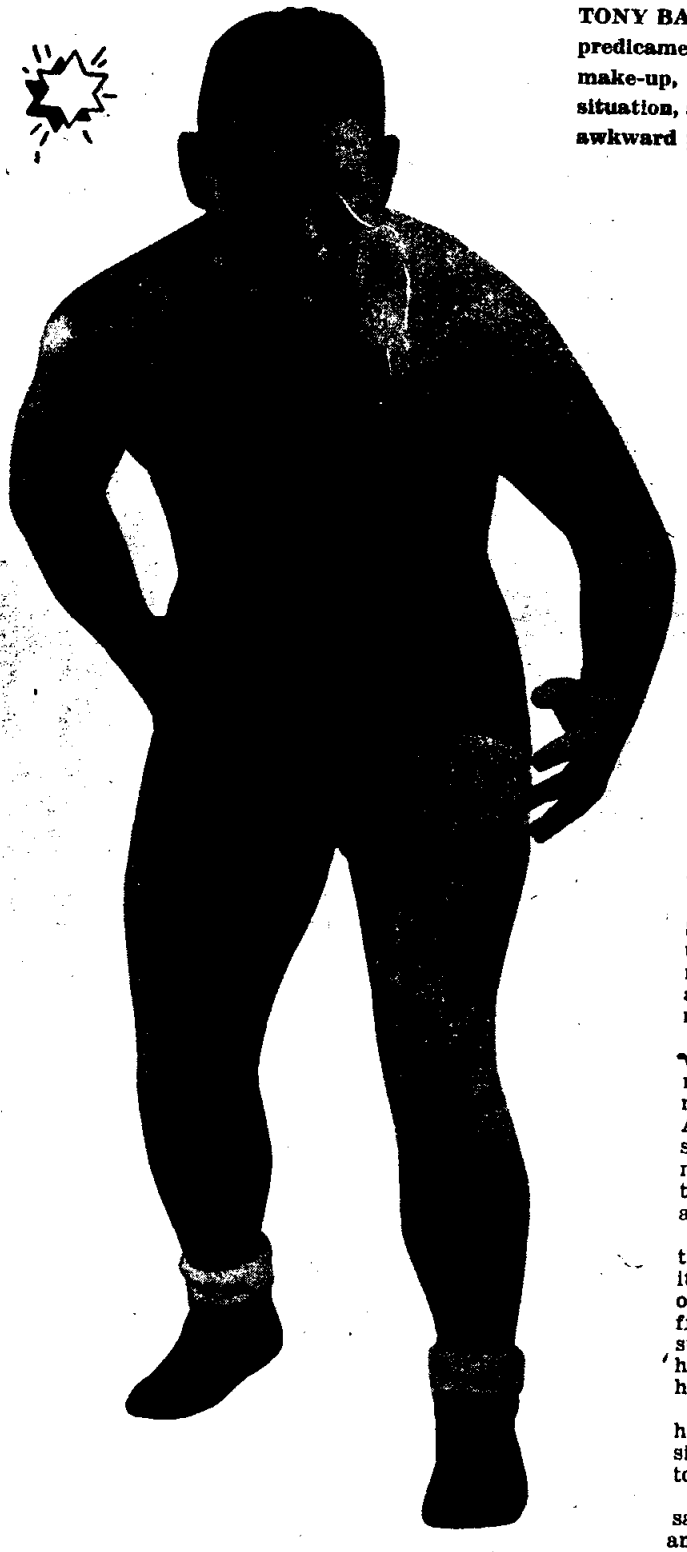
HENRY BURY, good looking Belgian star, and one of the best of the Continentals.

THE GHOUL, monster of the mat, has nearly been beaten several times, but not quite. Will he remain undefeated much longer?

ROLAND MEEKER, popular American matman at present on the West Coast.



Who'd be a referee? JACK PROCTER has his hands full getting these two off the ropes.



TONY BAER of Scotland, the man who has an answer for every predicament. Tony must have an indiarubber content in his make-up, for he seems to be able to get himself out of any situation, and the way he manages to hand it out from the most awkward positions has given many an opponent a nasty shock.

Swedish Angel takes a beating . .

At the Happy World Stadium last month, **Tor Johnson**, the Swedish Angel, lost his contest with **King Kong** before a tremendous crowd of enthusiastic fans. The contest was stopped by the referee, **Wog Buck Lee**, a 210lb. referee specially assigned for this bout, when he decided that due to injury, Johnson was unfit to continue the contest.

The decision was hotly contested by Tor Johnson who declared that if the contest had to be stopped at all, then the decision should have been either a draw or a "no contest" by the referee. Be that as it may, King Kong was declared the winner.

From our reporter who saw the contest, we gather that Johnson was a little too casual with his opponent and got the sticky end of the stick when he ran into an onslaught by Kong. Whatever made the giant Swede commit such a grave mistake we cannot imagine, but after his experience perhaps he will be more careful if, and when he meets King Kong again. He has already declared his desire for another crack at Kong, and says he will reverse the decision in no uncertain manner.

Istaz the Great

An appreciation . .

WHOEVER pinned that title on Karel Istaz of Belgium, certainly knew what they were doing. Solely as a physical specimen he is superb. His untiring agility coupled with his unique style in the ring would make him an outstanding wrestler in any class but the fact that he is a heavyweight makes him an even more remarkable man.

From the praise lavished on him by his fellow wrestlers and the compliments paid to him one rather expects to see an older, more heavily built man, something like a second Albert Van Der Auwera, and when the tall pleasant featured giant swings quietly through the ropes and stands modestly in his corner one is apt to wonder if all that praise wasn't just so much ballyhoo after all, and how great Istaz will prove to be.

One is not kept in suspense for long. As soon as the bell goes for action and Istaz takes up his stance it is obvious that here is a heavyweight out of the ordinary. The perplexing way he swerves his torso from side to side puzzles his opponent from the start and it seems hopeless to try and guess where he will attack first, then when he does come to grips his ability really begins to show itself.

He is amazingly quick for a heavyweight wrestler, his knowledge of holds and counters is very extensive and the way he applies this knowledge is a joy to behold.

Just how strong young Istaz is would be hard to say for he wrestles with effortless ease and grace and seldom, if ever, shows any sign of strain.

Yes, there's no doubt the fans mean what they say when they invite Istaz to come again, for Istaz the Great is really great!!

Lincoln Report . .

LINCOLN City is famous for several things. Its cathedral, its racecourse and its industrial and agricultural products are known the world over. Narrowing the margin down to the confines of the shire itself, it is also famous locally for the wrestling presented there.

Anyone in doubt of the popularity of the sport in this little city should pay a visit to the Central Market Hall where genial **Ted Beresford** puts on his Globe Promotions and where, every Wednesday evening, during the season, an enthusiastic audience gathers together to enjoy the thrills of the mat game. Lincolnshire being both agricultural and industrial, it is not surprising that the seats are fairly evenly occupied by fans from both country and town, and any casual visitor would do well to arrive in good time to be sure of a seat.

In view of the really top notch bills presented the mat sport's popularity is not surprising. Many of the big names in wrestling come to the Market Hall and among the most popular and welcome matmen are **Ernest Baldwin, The Farmer, Knowles-Peters, Johnny Stead and Alan Colbeck.** Specialities like **The Ghoul and Count Bartelli** are frequently on the programmes, and in addition fans have been treated this season to the varying styles of many visitors from abroad. Among them, New Zealander **'Kiwi' Kingston,** South African **Les Herberts,** Australian **Alan Garfield,** Belgian **Albert Van Der Auwera,** Austrian **Felix Kerschitz,** Americans **'Red' Kirkpatrick and Mickey Gold,** to mention a few.

If wrestling at Lincoln continues to increase in popularity, and there is every indication of it doing so, Promoter Ted Beresford's only headache is likely to be finding a larger hall in which to cater for the insatiable appetites of his Lincolnshire fans.

* * *

When Ted Beresford opened a new gymnasium at Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, he never thought for one moment that it would be half as well received as it proved to be. He has thrown the gymnasium open to all who are genuinely interested in physical development, in boxing and wrestling and kindred sports, and the instantaneous success of the gymnasium proves just how keen the younger generation are if they are given the opportunity.

And what of the gymnasium itself? We doubt if there is another gymnasium in the country as spacious, as comfortable and as well equipped as this one, the GLOBE GYMNASIUM. It is already the headquarters of some very well known Northern athletes, including Tony Eaton, the boxer, and Terry Earnshaw, amateur wrestler and Huddersfield rugby forward.

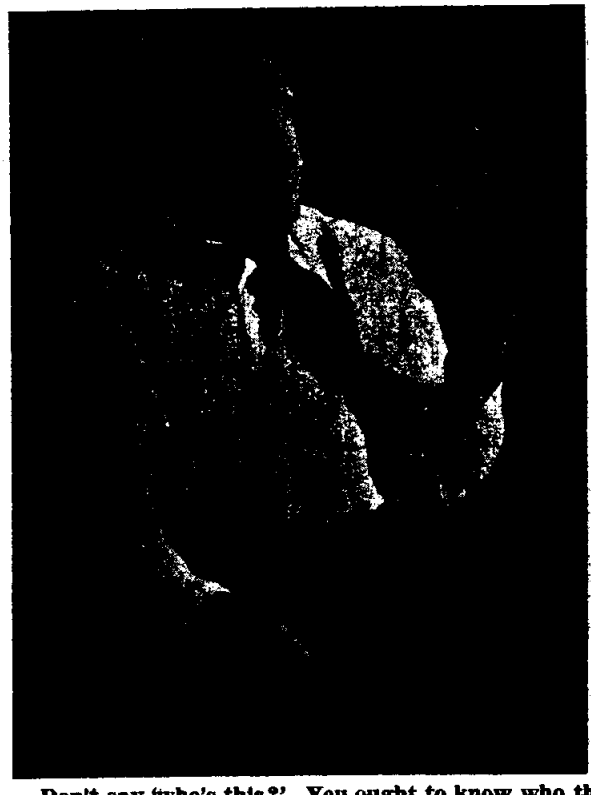
Here is a case of private enterprise that works out to the benefit of the public, for Ted says he has no intention of running the gymnasium on a commercial basis, and will be more than satisfied if it holds its head above water and provides the hundreds of local athletes and sportsmen with the chance to take part in healthy and beneficial exercise.

* * *

Slimming - Fact or Fad

SOME months ago the powers behind Television commenced a series of slimming lectures with "live" models on display. The B.B.C. announced that Slimming Charts were being prepared and any interested viewer could obtain same on application to Alexandra Palace providing they enclosed postage. It was not for one moment thought that the slimming series would have such a tremendous appeal to the public, although the B.B.C. did think it would be somewhat popular. The response was putting it mildly, simply terrific, 13,000 applications for slimming charts were received in one day alone. Eventually over £1,000 in 2½d. stamps were received in the T.V. offices for charts.

It was at this period that the British Medical Authorities, alive to their responsibilities to the general public, issued a grave warning as to the dangers of mass slimming, so grave indeed, that the B.B.C. issued no charts whatever to the public, but refunded all postage. Taking check on everything the T.V. were at least £1,000 out of pocket on returned stamps alone. What prompted the Medical Association to step in was the fact that mass slimming was not only dangerous but highly unsuitable in many cases. For example, the diet and exercises for a man of 50 may not be suitable for a woman of 30, then again each individual's health must be first considered. The medical authorities agreed with slimming to a certain degree but stated frankly each individual case must be treated on its respective merits and not on a mass scale.



Don't say 'who's this?' You ought to know who this is, even though you might not have seen him in this role before. It's the one and only sword swallower TOM RIGBY, ex-wrestler turned magician, and doing famous, too! Tom was very well known to fans just after the end of the war, and often gave demonstrations of sword swallowing before a contest

The "MAT" are in agreement with the Medicos. We agree with slimming where necessary, but each individual must consider his or her own health first, consulting a doctor if there has been a recent illness. Then slimming must be conducted under strict supervision with constant medical supervision if necessary. Then and then only, can slimming be beneficial to the person concerned.

Our Northern Correspondent, Rupert Rice, whose cartoons and articles are well known to "MAT" readers, agreed to a slimming course conducted on his own lines and reported to this magazine on its results. Mr. Rice, who is 44, weighed over 190lbs. The results after six weeks, were somewhat astonishing, the course itself was certainly not in accordance with that prescribed by the T.V. authorities. This alone shows that any slimming course must be made to suit individuals, and not mass produced.

Mr. Rice, who is in the catering business, and has access to a reasonable supply of food, brought out his own diet chart. Quite candidly, it astonishes us! Breakfast: two cups of tea and one cake. Lunch: two cups of tea and two rounds of dried toast. Late dinned at 7-30 p.m.: potatoes, meat or fish, sweet, bread and butter and tea. Supper around 10-30 p.m.: two cups of tea and a cheese roll.

During the day Mr. Rice consumes some twenty cups of tea (sugared) and smokes 20 cigarettes, this being dead against the T.V. chart. At night Mr. Rice does ten minutes body exercises. His 7-30 p.m. meal is the only hot meal he has in twenty-four hours, and yet in three weeks he lost 19lb. in weight and 3½in. round the waist line. In the following 4 weeks he lost only 4lbs. Over six weeks he went down from 13 stone 8lbs. to 11 stone 13lbs., and he says he feels a lot better for it.

"MAT" wishes to point out that such a slimming course as this is fantastic, to say the least! Sugared tea and cigarettes are against all principles of slimming. Rupert says he never felt better in his life, but he would not under any circumstances recommend such a course to our readers. It just shows, he says, how one man's meat is another's poison.

In conducting this investigation the "MAT" feels it is being of service to readers. Slimming must be conducted under very strict supervision. Mr. Rice has broken every known rule of slimming and yet has lost over a stone and a half in six weeks, and claims he has never been so fit for 15 years.

Slimming has become a nation's craze. The 'Mat' urges readers who wish to slim to take both medical and physical cultural advice and be treated individually. Then slimming will be beneficial and not dangerous.

Australia

Laverne Baxter

By T. A. GANNON.

WHEN Australian wrestling referees heard that Laverne Baxter had been included in the list of importations to do battle in "Down Under" rings this year, they immediately went into intensive training, for Baxter is a wrestler who is equally as rough with the third man in the ring as he is with his opponents. Australian wrestling fans have seen most of the recognised villains of the mat over the past quarter of a century but they are unanimous in their opinions that there has never been a grappler as rough as Baxter. "Dirty" Dick Raines, Abe "King Kong" Kashey, George K.O. Koverley, George Zaharias, Ted Cox and Ted Christy, whose villainies on the mat have aroused the hate of wrestling fans all over the world are all "Cissies" according to Baxter who has even been disqualified against them. In fact, Baxter has been disqualified more than any other wrestler in the game and points to this infamous record as irrefutable proof that he is the roughest man in the game.

Were Baxter to concentrate on scientific wrestling there is little doubt that he would be a leading contender for championship honours. He has shown on infrequent occasions that he is a master of nearly every known hold and, in addition, he possesses strength far above the normal, even for wrestlers where strength is an important factor. It is very rarely indeed that Baxter loses a contest on falls. He either wins or he is disqualified. In his contest with the highly rated Bobby Bruns, Baxter reduced the Chicago lawyer-wrestler to a state of near insensibility with blockbusters only to be disqualified. Against Dave Levin, ex-champion of the world and one of the cleanest wrestlers in the game, he so incensed the Jewish grappler that Levin retaliated in kind and both men were disqualified....Bob "Strangler" Wagner, another wrestler who is rated in the first ten villains of the present time, found himself outroughed by the giant Baxter who was again disqualified. However, the fans keep rolling along, hoping to see some wrestler who can match the gigantic strength of Baxter and humble the villainous American.

Before turning to wrestling, Laverne concentrated on boxing and perhaps that is the reason why he is ever ready to use his closed fist against an opponent. Later he combined wrestling with boxing and toured South America, meeting with considerable success. In fact, so proficient was he as a boxer that he just missed out by the barest of margins on a trip to Europe with Gene Tunney's manager. In 1934, Baxter decided to give fighting away and concentrate on the mat sport. Although his tactics won the hatred of the fans, they always came along in droves in the hope of seeing him beaten. His best performance in the wrestling ring was to hold the mighty Jim Londos to a drawn decision which is proof of his wrestling ability. However, the raven-haired Arkansan prefers to batter his opponents into helplessness with an assortment of tactics.

Amongst those who have fallen before the onslaughts of Baxter are such well known wrestlers as Paul Boesch, George Zaharias, Jumping Joe Savoldi, Man Mountain Dean, "Sliding" Billy Hansen and Roy McLarty. Standing 6ft. 3in. in height, the 38 year old Baxter weighs well over seventeen stone. Entering the ring clad in long black tights and a black windbreaker, Baxter gives an impression of power. This impression is heightened when he removes the windbreaker and displays a magnificent physique. Despite his immense size, Baxter moves as quickly as a cat in the ring.

Another little known point about Laverne Baxter is that he is the hog calling champion of Arkansas. In winning this title he held a call for a minute and a half and it is reported that the call was heard just over five miles away.

Baron Michele Leone

by VIC BURNS

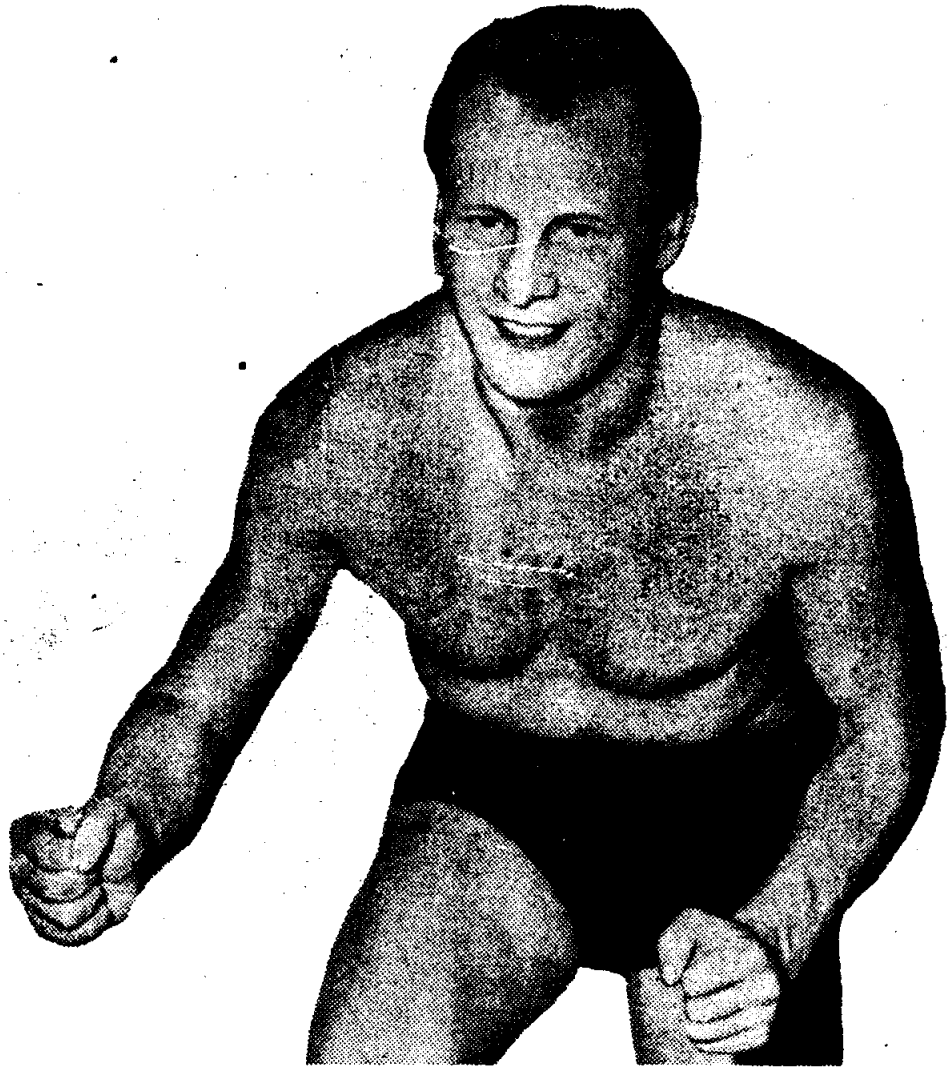
THE brightest star on the west coast wrestling scene is that nasty nobleman, the Baron Michele Leone, holder of both the California heavyweight and junior heavyweight championships. Four or five nights of every week the local arenas are jammed with howling fans who turn out in droves every time the Baron appears because they hope some day to see some wrestler knock his aristocratic block off, for Michele Leone is just about the roughest character in the ring to-day.

Although he has proved on several occasions that he is a master of clean, scientific grappling, the Baron prefers his own rugged style. Since this is catch-as-catch-can wrestling, he says he catches them how and where he can. Because of Leone's penchant for heaving his adversaries out of the ring and the many resulting injuries, the California Wrestling Commission has just passed a new ruling: if either man goes off the apron, the match is stopped and the purses of both are withheld pending an investigation. From the Baron's point of view this is most unfortunate, for many are the matches this arch-villain has won when his opponent was unable to continue due to being ejected. Even the great Rocca suffered a severe shoulder dislocation when the Baron tossed him into the third row.

Michele Leone claims to be the only real member of European nobility to be a professional grappler, and we'll admit that with his aristocratic features, long hair, and disarming smile he looks the part. Hailing from Abruzzi, Italy, the Baron says his title goes back to the sixteenth century.

He has great strength, the speed and temper of a tiger, and even his enemies admit he is possessed of dauntless courage and stamina. He never gives up, and always smiles when he moves in to perpetrate some new form of mayhem on his victim.

Truly this "Brute from Abbruzzi" is the most dynamic, colourful chunk of ferocity in the ring to-day, and a great wrestler if ever I saw one—and I saw one!!!



EDDIE (FLASH) BARKER of Canada is recovered from an injury that laid him off for a few weeks. One of the best looking chaps in the ring to-day, he is always popular with the crowd.

Three wrestlers who will be known to many thousands of patrons of our sport. We know who they are. Do you? Take a good look at them, think carefully, and send us your answers to their identity. Mark all your envelopes (I24) and address them to us. We will open all these envelopes on Oct 5th, and the first with the correct answers gets a free subscription to MAT for one year. Be careful though, they are not easy to recognise!

WORLD TOURNAMENT FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD

But not yet!! It is a question we should try to clear up as soon as possible, though, says W. H. HODKINSON.

I AM continually being asked "When are we going to have world wrestling champions that are recognised by everybody?" And I am as constantly supplying the answer that I don't know, and that as far as I can see, the prospect is very doubtful.

Many people seem to think that because Free Style wrestling is now almost universal there should be no difficulty in putting on championship bouts that would have every country's blessing. When in actual fact it only makes the outlook more difficult. The man in the street may speak of Free Style as one style of wrestling. If it was it would simplify things a great deal. The trouble—if it be trouble—is that there are many interpretations of the term "Free Style." Almost every country has its own set of rules. Sometimes they vary little from the rules of their neighbours; at other times there is a great deal of difference.

American Free Style is not British Free Style. Indeed, wrestling in the U.S.A. varies from one state to another. Tricks are permitted in the U.S.A. that would not be permitted over here.

There are states in America, for instance, where wrestling outside the ring—should both contestants be outside at the same time—is permitted. In Texas only such obvious "fouls" as the throwing of a wrestler over the top rope of the ring and the choke lock are barred. How can you reconcile these rules with say, our Mount-Evans Rules?

No one would more like to see world wrestling championships fought out on a more widespread basis than myself. It is one of my secret hopes that such a state of affairs will eventually come to pass. But it does not blind me to the many obstacles in the way at the present time.

Things are different now from the days when a Graeco-Roman champion could wrestle a challenger from Toronto or Timbuctoo. There was one hard and fast set of rules. You could wrestle a man for the championship of his own native style, you could even run a championship on, say, Catch-as-catch-can lines.

I suppose America will say, "You can do as you darned well please with the other classes, but we guys have a right to fix up a heavyweight champion if we like." Other divisions hold little interest for them . . . as far as championships are concerned.

Though even the Americans cannot altogether agree on who is world heavyweight champion. One state seems to consider that their champion has just as much right to be a claimant to the title as a gripster from another state. Though majority opinion over there seems to be that Lou Thesz is world champion. Yet even then, there are Americans who still regard Frank Sexton as world champion.

I am all in favour of a round table conference to try to settle difficulties.

Why cannot the recognised promoters of the world get together and see if it is possible to hammer out a set of rules that will be acceptable to the majority? And by recognised promoters I mean those people who have been in the sport long enough to know what they are talking about and who have the fans' confidence, not people who bill ex-boxers as champions, when they have never defeated a single wrestler of repute.

I foresee difficulties in my "Get together" suggestion. But are these difficulties so impossible to solve? I think not. Along with others who have the welfare of wrestling at heart, I would like to see a recognised international body established that would formulate rules for world championship contests and who would control such contests.

Let us hope that some day a solution will be found. The more attention is drawn to this urgent matter, the sooner is something likely to be done about it.

It must be borne in mind at all times that MAT is an international magazine. We give details of contests and pictures of contestants in all parts of the world, and our readers, particularly our new readers, are reminded that due to the purely national character of many styles and wrestling practices, rules in say, India, differ in degree to those appertaining in Great Britain, and those in America from those in Russia. Several readers have written us asking where they can see famous girl wrestlers in action in Britain. Well, they can't. The governing bodies of wrestling in Great Britain do not allow girls to wrestle in public. We publish pictures of girl wrestlers chiefly because MAT circulates in America and also because many of our British readers like to know what goes on in other parts of the world. Please remember, that the pictures and stories in MAT represent not Britain, France, India, Russia or America, or any other country, but the whole of world wrestling and that the styles do differ everywhere.

Jim Londos The Golden Greek

THERE never has been a wrestler like Jim Londos, a throwback to the years when might ruled, when only the strong survived. Jimmy Londos, christened Chris Theophilus, fought his way to the top, brawled and battled against top competition and has remained tops even to this year 1951.

Amazed, yes even to-day at the age of 63, Jim comes out of retirement to wrestle about once a month. In 1950 he met Primo Carnera twice in Chicago Stadium. Battling to a draw both times, the first match netted $54,000 and the second $46,000.

But let us go on with the story of the Golden Greek. When in his teens Jim had already made a name for himself as a man of strength, an athlete skilled in all events. His mother wanted him to become a priest, but his father wanted him to make use of his strength as a soldier in the much prided Greek Army. However, neither of them received their wish, for at the age of 20 Jim and his cousin left for the land of opportunity—America.

There, Jim made use of his strength, getting jobs as a strongman in the circus, then as an apprentice, electrician and lastly as an iron worker. In his spare moments he attended the Olympic Club to keep in shape through weightlifting. Many wrestlers had the same idea as Jim and soon he met men like Earl Caddock and Farmer Burns. He got so interested in wrestling that before long he was a steady customer in wrestling arenas.

Then, after working out for many months in the Olympic Club with top grapplers, they were amazed with his strength and quickly persuaded him to enter the pro wrestling game. In 1916 Jim got his first match, still known as Chris Theophilus, against a man named Berson and they wrestled in Portland, Oregon. For his part in the match Jim received $50, an amazing sum for a beginner. There was a promising future in putting his strength to test and Jim made one vow, that he would try his utmost to some day become No. 1 man in the wrestling game. His years of slaving for starvation prices were over and Jim found himself putting some of his money in the bank.

And then it came, the name Jim Londos. Like so many of the grapplers, he found his name too harsh sounding, announcers repeatingly pronounced his name wrong, so Chris Theophilus died, and Jim Londos was born.

Then Jim shifted to Chicago. He weighed 210lbs., a weight he retained throughout his wrestling years including to-day, and stood 5ft. 10in. In Chicago he met and defeated Doctor Roller, went on to Norfolk where he met and Ivan Linow. Then he came to New York City and was pitted against the holder of the Greek Championship, William Demetral. In one of Jim's toughest bouts he took the championship away from Demetral, winning promoters' and fans' acclaim throughout the Empire State.

Jim, might we add, was the first grappler to introduce the fast, wild, rough, tough, present day type of grappling. His airplane spin was the most amazing manoeuvere of his time.

He finally made the big time, rated as one of the top ten in the country. He received top billings in Chicago, Kansas City, New York and St. Louis. There for the first time he met the man whom Jim rates as his toughest opponent,Ed "Strangler" Lewis. Twice Lewis defeated Londos in St. Louis and then in 1928 as Champion Wrestler of the World went off to France with Londos at his side trying for a crack at the championship.

Jim decided to tour his own country and in Athens met Karol Zybysko and then the famed Kola Kwariani before a crowd of 100,000 and a net take of $250,000.

In 1929 Jim signed a contract with Ed White naming the latter as manager. White guided him till 1933 and accepts credit for making Londos champion.

Fifteen times he met Lewis and three times he won, the other twelve times he found himself on the short end. One of those rare times occurred in Wrigley Field in Chicago, when he lifted the championship from Lewis in 1934 before 35,000 fans. That netted $108,000.

Jim defended his title 221 times with his purse totalling over the 3 million dollar mark in his many years.

In Jim's time he was a greater draw than Jack Dempsey or Babe Ruth. This can be proved by the I.N.S.

Just think, Londos amassed much of his fortune during the depression. During his time he met and defeated Everett Marshall, Dick Shiket, Ed Don George, Strangler Lewis, Jim McMillen, Sandor Szabo, Joe Savoldi, Jim Browning and both Ernie and Rudy Dusek. Jim finally lost his title to Danno O'Mahoney.

How great Jim must have been, for even to-day at 63 he draws huge crowds. For 35 years Jim has been grappling and here is proof of his tremendous popularity. He met Jim McMillen twice in Madison Square Garden, and both matches netted more than $50,000. His 1931 match with Ray Steele in the Yankee Stadium netted $70,000. If you look at the dates you find it was during the height of depression.

During the past few years Londos has defeated Ski Hi Lee, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Abe Kashey, Lee Grable and Dean Detton.

To-day, the Golden Greek takes pride in his farming. He owns a huge acre ranch in Escondindo, California, where he grows fruit. He made a name for himself as a shrewd business man when he invested money in real estate and oil holdings.

One of the truly greats of his time, Jim may not have been the greatest American wrestler, but he certainly was the greatest draw. He set the pattern for the action packed grappling which is in effect in the States to-day. We will go on record as saying the Londos of to-day is not the Londos of yesteryear. He has dropped many of his holds and manoeuvres, but he is still a "great."

J. FORD.

HACKENSCHMIDT—continued.

Woods and accompanied it with a blow on the jaw in the dressing room which was shut, the better to effect the much-desired consummation. Upon this turned the action for false imprisonment."

Wood's evidence, January 17th, 1905: "Hackenschmidt said he was going to wrestle Weber, and, to cause some excitement, wanted myself and Gunner Moir to wrestle him first, and said, "You may go down." I said I would not. He said, "You must do as you are told the same as Carkeek's men, Renault and Merzouk, did." I said I would not let a man put me down who could not wrestle one side of me.

On January 27th, he told me to come to his dressing room. He closed the door, and pulling out a Sydney paper asked me to read it. He asked "What do you know about it." I said "I do not know anything." He said, "It makes me look nice." I replied, "It makes me look none the better." I turned to leave the dressing room, then he punched me on the left jaw and struck me about the head. He pushed me by the head as I left the door, and told me never to let him see my face again."

Georges Hackenschmidt said: "I am a wrestler, I am not a boxer. I have only had the gloves on three times. In England, 18 months ago, I engaged Woods at 68,00 a week. He was out of work when I offered him $14,00 a week to come to Australia for a 16 weeks season with a return ticket. I had to go to the hospital in Sydney, and Moir and Woods came to see me. I paid them $5.00 the first week and $6.00 the next three. Woods spoke to me about 'Jack Graham' and said they were to be partners, but that he would not leave me till the end of the tour. I told him to be careful and said, "If you start now you will know what you will get out of it, and if it is not sufficient I will give you a return ticket to London." He said he would see, and afterwards told me it was the paragraph in which it was arranged that they were to start on January 30th. On January 27th I showed Woods the paragraph in the Sydney paper about a wrestling match with Weber, and said, "Is that nice?" He answered, "I have not done it." I replied, "You are the only man who knows it. Go out of the room. When I wrestle with a man I can throw him in two or three minutes; but one of my men may be longer, and a throw might take all the night, and that would not do.

"You wanted to arrange how long it was to last?" "I asked Woods once." "Did you tell him he should do as he was told, as Carkeek's men did?" "No." "Did you not say it would create excitement with the public if Weber beat him?" "I did not."

"Do you think it would add to the interest?" "I give everybody chances."

End of Fourth Instalment.

PHYSICAL POWER—continued.

Best time for exercise is NEVER when just getting out of bed. The body's rhythm is at its best about 4 p.m. By that time the blood circulation has reached its most receptive stage and the muscles of the whole body feel ready to accept increased labours especially when directed against sections of the anatomy which throughout the day have not been disturbed. Physiologically and psychologically the body and mind are at their best a couple of hours after tea-time.

If you are slim to start with the above exercises should come easy to you for two reasons. First, because slim persons rarely develop a very prominent paunch, and second, because the abdominal muscles have less weight to resist against whem just the body weight is to be contended with. Heavy individuals will discover that their lower back muscles receive as much benefit as the front. The thighs also derive much work in some of the movements. In fact, it is really impossible to isolate the rest of the body while one concentrates on a local set of muscles. The part where the greatest strain is placed will gain the most but no matter what one is doing the circulatory system runs right through our physical house and as you exercise, the enriched blood simply must run its full circuit giving some benefit to every part. What's the main purpose of exercise? It's just the natural expedient to bring about a flood of oil (blood) to all the working parts and so prevent "rust."

END OF THIRD CHAPTER.

JACK PYE—continued.

Pyes favourite hold is the three-quarter nelson. Asked what ideas he has for bettering the sport, he grinned and retorted: "The rougher the better." His toughest match he said was with the Golden Greek, Jim Londos, a former world champion. They met at Liverpool. "He was over 50 then," said Jack, "but he was tough. No wonder he can still lick most of the best to-day, even when he has reached the 60 mark. I learned a terrific amount from Londos, and I still remember him."

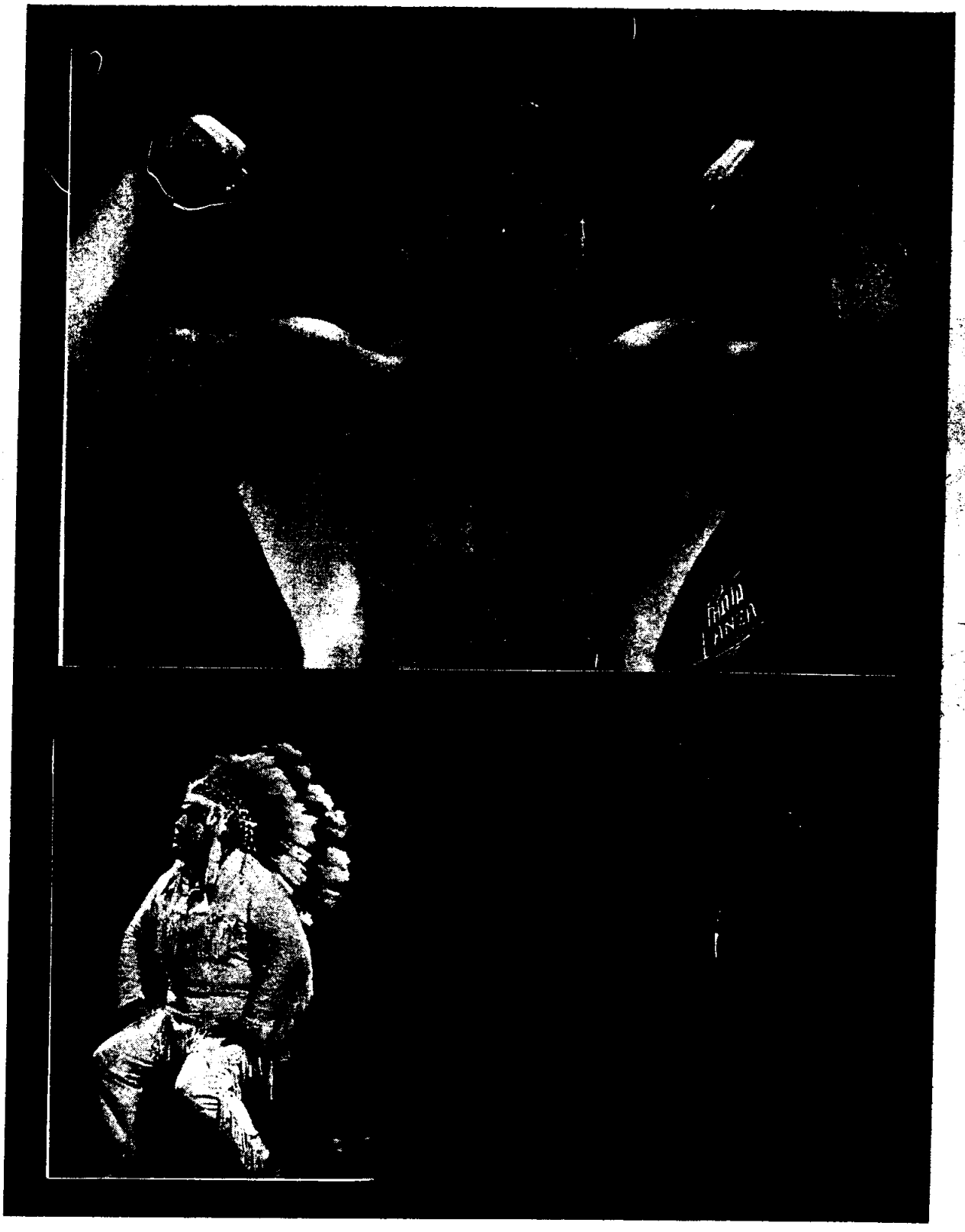
Asked what he disliked most in wrestling, Pye lowered his head like a bull and snorted, "These young kids of 20 and 25 who think they know everything Rupert; it takes 15 years to become anything like a first-class wrestler. I have been a professional for 20 years; before that I was wrestling right from my schooldays as an amateur (Jack actually represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games) yet these young cock-a-hoops come bouncing into the ring as if they are going to tear you to pieces. My own method of dealing with these young bucks is to let them run themselves out for about four rounds with their fancy tricks, and after they have taken the wind out of themselves, strength, skill and years of experience soon turn the tables. Then they wake up and realise there is something needed besides mere youth to become a first-class wrestler. It's a tough trade, and you have to have a long and rough apprenticeship before you have mastered it, and the older you get the more you learn."

It was at that moment that the 28 year old American, Red Kirkpatrick, who was Jacks opponent that evening, pushed his tousel head through the doorway and asked the tough Doncaster warrior if he was ready to come out and get licked.

There was an ominous glint in the giant's eye, he stroked a massive chin with strong fingers, his voice was like the low deep growl of a baited lion: "That's what I mean by a cocky kid," he said looking quietly at me, "but they live and they learn, generally by the hard way." Then with a contemptous smile the rugged British grappler pulled his magnificent robe around him, and strode after the blonde American to the ring, rather like a wild cat in the wake of its prey.

Answer to "True or False."

Number 5 only is untrue.



That mighty chap on the right is GEORGE CLARK of Scotland, one of the greatest athletes Scotland has ever produced, and he is seen here talking to the King and Queen at the famous Braemar Sports.

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GOERNER the MIGHTY

By EDGAR MUELLER

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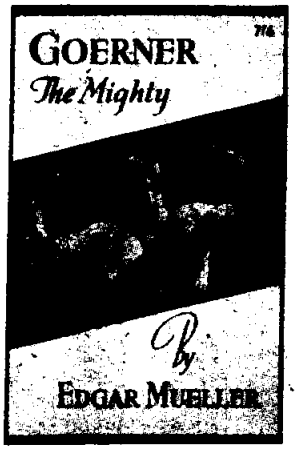

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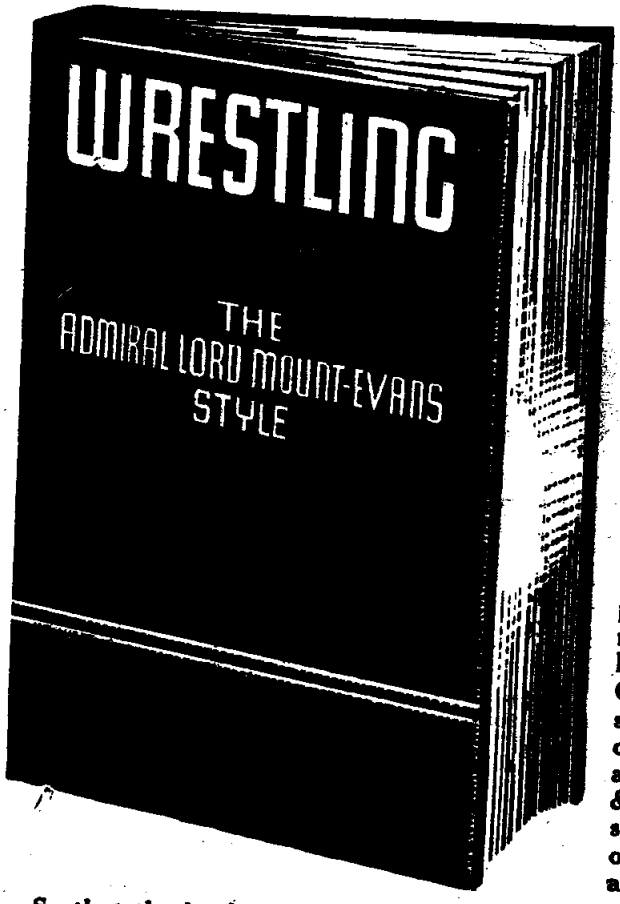

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